

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:305
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015
INTER PLANETARY EXPLORATIONS
Rao Shri Konakalla Narayana

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India plans to corroborate with other countries on inter-planetary explorations/missions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the documents/ agreements signed for the purpose, country-wise; and
- (c) the benefits likely to accrue to the country as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 305 REGARDING "INTER-PLANETARY EXPLORATIONS" ASKED BY SHRI KONAKALLA NARAYANA RAO FOR ANSWER ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 18, 2015.

- a) Yes Madam. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to collaborate with other space agencies on inter-planetary explorations/missions.
- b) Currently, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is engaged in discussions with the Space Agencies of United States of America, Russia and France on possible inter-planetary explorations / missions. A charter that establishes "ISRO-NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration of USA) Mars Working Group" has been signed on September 30, 2014. The scope of this working group includes potential ISRO-NASA cooperation on future missions to Mars. While the discussions are in progress with these space agencies on possible collaboration, no concrete proposals are in place as on date.
- c) The benefits likely to accrue to the country as a result of possible collaboration on inter-planetary explorations/missions include –
 - (i) minimizing the cost of realizing such technologically complex missions;
 - (ii) enhancing technological capabilities in spacecraft design including onboard autonomy, miniaturization, optimization of onboard resources;
 - (iii) providing excellent opportunities in planetary research for the scientific community of the country. The space science and inter-planetary missions generate interest in youth of the country towards science and technology, as demonstrated by Chandrayaan-1 and Mars Orbiter Mission. Also, the expertise gained through such collaborations helps in improving the capabilities of earth observation and satellite communication.