

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1568

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015

EDUSAT

Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an audit report has made any observations about EDUSAT not being able to achieve its objectives effectively;
- (b) if so the details of the observation made by the panel along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the details of the funds spent on the launch and maintenance of the said satellite?

Answer

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

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) The details of observation made by the panel and the responses of Department of Space are as follows:

The Major Observations of Audit are:

- (i) Deficiencies relating to planning, implementation of projects in the area of establishment of ground network for the satellite and generation of the education contents.
- (ii) The underutilisation of satellite in terms of network connectivity.
- (iii) Considerable delays in establishment of ground networks.
- (iv) Bandwidth allocation to states was not done transparently as the same was not allotted uniformly to all states.
- (v) Inadequate replacement strategy planning for EDUSAT follow-up satellite.
- (vi) The objective of reaching quality primary, higher, technical and professional education to the unreached poor masses of the country remained unachieved.

The Responses of Department of Space are:

- (i) Management structures, such as National Core Group (NCG), Programme Review Board (PRB), Programme Management Council (PMC), Programme Management Board (PMB) were in place. This mechanism provided the required directions for the implementation of Edusat networks.
- (ii) About 70% of the potential of EDUSAT satellite was utilised for education services. The responsibility of the content generation, content management and operations was identified with the States/users through MOU, as they had the relevant competence.
- (iii) The reasons for delays were largely related to site readiness, obtaining road permits, site accessibility, etc, which were to be addressed by State/user agencies.
- (iv) Bandwidth allocation has been made based on technical grounds for suiting the requirements of the states to implement the tele-education networks.
- (v) The unexpected power constraint on Edusat satellite and the launch failure of GSLV to put GSAT-5P into orbit, created a shortfall in transponder capacity for some time. However, majority of the networks were supported using capacity on INSAT-4CR and other satellites. After launch of GSAT-8 and GSAT-12 sufficient bandwidth is available for the Tele-education networks.
- (vi) DOS/ISRO has worked with States/Central Agencies to realise 83 tele-education networks connecting to about 5,000 Satellite interactive Terminals and 55,000 Receive Only Terminals, in 30 States and UTs. Thus, the objective of Edusat Programme is largely

achieved.

(c) Department of Space is preparing Action Taken Note (ATN) for the same.

(d) The Funds spent on the launch and maintenance of the satellite was about 283 crores.