

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6595
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2015
POLAR RESEARCH VESSEL
Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the construction of a Polar Research Vessel as announced in 2008-09 has been facing delay over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and ;
- (c) the time by which the Polar Research Vessel is likely to be built/commissioned and objectives thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (Shri Y. S. Chowdary)

(a)&(b) The proposal for acquisition of Polar Research Vessel was earlier approved at an estimated cost of Rs.490 crore in June, 2010. The process leading to agreement with the shipyard involves various time consuming steps with detailed consultations with Project Monitoring and Coordination Committee at every stage viz. preparation of requirements, appointment of consulting firm to prepare detailed specification of the vessel, finalization of detailed specifications prepared by consulting firm, preparation and floating of Expression of Interest, technical evaluation of bids and shortlisting of bidders, preparation of comprehensive document for Request for Proposal, prebid meeting with bidders, receipt of bids, technical analysis of received bids and seeking clarifications from bidders before opening the financial bids, clearances for signing of agreement and finalization of agreement. A Consulting firm was appointed for working out detailed specifications as per requirement in October, 2010 after following the tender process. Final design specifications and provisional cost estimates were prepared in consultation with Project Monitoring and Coordination Committee by the Consulting firm upon discussion with in January, 2011. In July, 2011 expression of interest was finalized after working out detailed drawing for ship building, propulsion system, ice breaking capability etc. In December, 2011, a request for proposal was issued to the shortlisted shipyards whose bids underwent detailed technical evaluation thereafter. The financial bids were opened in March, 2013. A Standing Committee constituted to examine the cost reasonableness submitted its report in September, 2013 and recommended the revised cost of Rs.1051 crores as reasonable. The proposal of Revised Cost Estimate was prepared which was recommended by the Expenditure Finance Committee in March, 2014 for the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). The proposal was approved by the CCEA in October, 2014. Presently, the agreement with the shipbuilder is under finalization and the necessary clearances in this regard, are under process.

(c) The Polar Research Vessel is likely to be built in 34 months after signing of agreement with the following major objectives:

- (i) launching of scientific expedition to Antarctica for transfer of personnel and material for two Antarctic Indian stations – Maitri and Bharati, and
- (ii) undertaking scientific research & investigations in Antarctic, Arctic and Indian Ocean.