

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6637  
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2015  
RESEARCH BASES IN ANTARCTICA  
Vellaigounder Shri Elumalai

**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether infrastructure facilities provided to research bases in Antarctica, Maitri and Bharati, in Antarctica are adequate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons there for;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the details of scientists/members working in these research bases ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S.CHOWDARY)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The details of infrastructure facilities provided in Maitri Station and Bharati station at Antarctica are as follows:

Maitri ( Latitude :70° 45` 01.65` S and Longitude: 11° 43` 01.45` E) :

The Station has 220 volts regulated power supply, 24x7 broadband connectivity for voice, video and data; Incinerator based toilets; living, dining, lounge and basic medical facilities. The station facilitates year-round scientific research in and around Schirmacher/Wohlthat mountains and can support 25 persons in the main building during summers as well as winters and about 40 in summer facility comprising of containerized living modules.

Bharati (Latitude: 69° 24.41` S and Longitude: 76 ° 11.72` E):

The station facilitates year-round scientific research in and around Larsemann Hills. It can support 47 persons in the main building during summer as well as winters with additional 25 in emergency shelters / satellite camps during summers and thus making the total capacity as 72. The station consists of one main building, a satellite camp and a number of smaller fibre glass modules.

Bharati offers 220 volts regulated power supply; automated heat-ventilation & air-conditioning; hot and cold running water, 24x7 broadband connectivity for voice, video and data; flush toilets; aesthetically designed living, dining, lounge, laboratory space and basic medical facilities.

(c) The expeditions to Antarctica and investigations as well as scientific observations/ research will be continued in future. The investigations and scientific observations in the vicinity are undertaken on round the year basis.

(d) A total of 117 expedition members including scientists, doctors, engineers, helicopter crew were deputed to two permanent all year round stations at Antarctica for the 34th Indian Scientific Expedition launched during 2014-15. There were 72 short term members who went in and came out of Antarctica during austral summers i.e. November 2014 to April 2015. At present there are 45 expedition members stations "Maitri" and "Bharati". These members will be returning to India between November 2015 and March 2016. The members of the 35th Scientific Expedition to be launched during 2015-16 to Antarctic will replace the existing team.