GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:507
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014
SINDHU SADHNA
P. Shri Nagarajan;Sundaram Shri P.R.

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently launched the first ever indigenously built research vessel/ship 'Sindhu Sadhna' for ocean technology and research;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the cost of the ship;

(c) whether this research vessel has started its oceanographic research and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to launch more such research vessel/ship in near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken by the Government to upgrade and improve ocean technology and research?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement as referred in reply to parts (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.507 for 13.08.2014.

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) The constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO), Goa has acquired a multi-disciplinary research vessel which has been named Sindhu Sadhana. The vessel has 9 laboratories, equipped for multi-disciplinary oceanographic research. An amount of Rs. 226.51 crore has been spent for vessel construction and equipments. The Sindhu Sadhana has been built indigenously and is 80 meters long and 17.6 m wide. It can accommodate 57 personnel, 29 Scientists and 28 crew members. The vessel is designed for a cruising speed of 13.5 knots and has an endurance of 45 days.

(c) Yes Madam. After sea trials, the vessel sailed for its first oceanographic research cruise on 19th July, 2014 from Visakhapatnam.

(d)&(e) Presently, there is no further plan to launch new research vessels / ships. In the current Five Year Plan, the research efforts are focused at: Development of technology for underwater sensing and measurements; Studies related to poly metallic nodules; Deployment of low temperature thermal desalination technology for conversion of sea water into potable water; Forecasting Indian marine living resource potential; Understanding the input fluxes, sinks and paleoceanography; Geo-scientific investigations for deciphering the earth's internal processes and exploration of energy resources; Indian Aquatic Ecosystems - Impact of deoxygenation, eutrophication and acidification; and Analyses and harnessing of marine biodiversity for bioremediation of aquaculture and other industrial effluents.