

12.00 hrs.

Title: Regarding launch of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to inform this august House that the first test flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV, was successfully carried out from Sriharikota on April 18, 2001.

GSLV is the most technologically challenging mission undertaken so far by ISRO and its successful launch is a new landmark in our space achievements. GSLV, once commissioned into regular service, will provide us with the capability to launch INSAT type of communication satellites into 36,000 km high orbit.

GSLV represents a confluence of sophisticated technologies with a major proportion developed indigenously by our scientists. It uses solid, liquid and cryogenic propulsion stages. The cryogenic stage has been supplied by Russia. The 49 metre tall GSLV, weighing about 400 tonnes, lifted off from Sriharikota at 3.43 pm IST, carrying GSAT-1 satellite weighing 1540 kg. After a flawless countdown and 17 minutes of flight, the satellite was successfully placed into its intended orbit.

The first signals acquired from the GSAT-1 satellite indicate normal performance of the satellite. In the next few days, the satellite will be manoeuvred to reach its final geo-stationary orbit. The satellite carries instruments to conduct experiments in digital audio broadcast, internet services and compressed digital TV transmissions.

The successful accomplishment of GSLV mission is the culmination of a decade of efforts of ISRO Centres supported by industries and academic institutions in India.

I request this august House to join me in congratulating ISRO and all others who have been involved in the successful launch of GSLV.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (AMETHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great pride for us all that the GSLV satellite has been successfully launched yesterday. This will place India in the front line of international space technology and open for us a huge opportunity to share fully in the information and communication revolution. The successful launch of the GSLV satellite is the culmination of a comprehensive plan of action drawn up by previous Governments....(*Interruptions*) Yes, it is a fact....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : The first SLV was launched during Indiraji's time and it was followed by the launching of the PSLV. Therefore, it is a matter of great and particular pride to us that this programme stands fulfilled.

On behalf of myself and of the Congress Party, I congratulate the scientists and the technicians whose dedication and commitment have made this possible. Thank you....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, on my own behalf and on behalf of the entire House, I congratulate our scientists who have worked tirelessly for making the launch of GSLV D-1 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh at 3.43 p.m. yesterday, 18th April, 2001, a success.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up papers to be laid on the Table.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the issue pending. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, you can take it up after the papers are laid on the Table.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : No, Sir. The Government is always postponing a decision on this for the last so many days. ...(*Interruptions*) They have now taken a very rigid stand. ...(*Interruptions*) They must now come out. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, you can take it up after the papers are laid on the Table.

12.07 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Kantilal Bhuria and some other hon. Members came
and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

...(Interruptions)
