

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 664
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019**

BASES IN ANTARCTICA

664. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the annual missions to maintain India's three bases in Antarctica is proposed to be continued;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to undertake more expeditions and research on the other poles; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a-b) Yes Madam. India maintains two research stations in Antarctica. Annual expedition to Antarctica to maintain India's two stations viz Maitri and Bharati is continuing. India's first station "Dakshin Gangotri" was decommissioned in 1990.**
- (c) Yes, Madam.**
- (d) India commenced its dedicated Arctic research in 2007 and later established its Arctic research base 'Himadri' in 2008. India continues to send expeditions to Arctic each year since 2008 in the Norwegian Arctic, Svalbard. India's Arctic research includes atmospheric, biological, marine and earth sciences and glaciological studies. Ministry of Earth Sciences has also established a high-altitude research station in Himalaya (third pole) called "HIMANSH", at a height of 13,500 feet (4000 m), at a remote region in Lahaul - Spiti, Himachal Pradesh to study and quantify the Himalayan Glaciers response to climate change.**
