GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2716
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
ACHIEVEMENTS IN SPACE SECTOR
Rawat Prof. Rasa Singh

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the achievements made by India in the field of space;

(b) whether India has achieved success in launching satellites with exclusive initiatives of its own scientists without foreign aid or help from foreign institutions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of satellites launched so far and the number of functional satellites among them;

(e) the benefits being gained by the country from these satellites; and

(f) the amount spent by the country on space explorations/crafts/satellites during the last three years and our future plans in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) The major achievement of India in the field of Space is the self-reliant development of world-class satellites and launch vehicles and utilising the space systems in several areas relevant to national development. India has established two operational space systems viz., INSAT system, which is one of the largest domestic satellite communication systems in the world and the Indian Remote Sensing satellite (IRS) system, which is among the best in the world for generating information on natural resources. India`s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is well proven through eight successive successful flights providing self-reliant launch capability for IRS & Kalpana-1 type of satellites. The Geo-Synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), capable of launching 2 tonne INSAT type of satellites, has been successfully flight tested and operationalised with three successive successful flights and India is one among the six countries in the world to demonstrate capabilities for geo-stationary satellite launch.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) India has achieved success in launching of IRS satellites by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and GSAT satellites by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), which have been designed and developed indigenously.

(d) India, so far has launched 43 satellites. Out of this, 17 satellites are currently functioning and providing operational services while the remaining 26 satellites have already completed their useful mission life.

(e) Both IRS and INSAT satellites have benefited the country in various areas of national development. INSAT satellite system is the main stay for the nation wide television broadcasting, networking of radio stations, rural area communications, business communications, Tele-education, Tele-medicine, provision of cyclone warnings, gathering meteorological data, assisting weather forecasting, emergency communication support during disasters and providing search and rescue support. The imageries data from IRS satellites are used for vital applications such as locating zones for availability of ground water in habitations having no access to drinking water, monitoring of agricultural crops, advisories to coastal fishermen on potential zones for fishing, watershed development planning, rural development programmes, wasteland management and disaster management support.

(f) The amount spent by India on Space programme, encompassing development of satellites, launch vehicles, space applications, space science and INSAT system, during the last three years is as below:

2002-03	Rs. 2,162.23 Crores
2003-04	Rs. 2,268.81 Crores
2004-05	Rs. 2,534.35 Crores

The future plans for space research include development of advanced launch vehicle systems; developing capabilities in Space communications towards meeting the developmental needs in the areas of education and literacy, health-care, rural development and disaster management support, maintain the leadership in earth observation systems with enhanced imaging capabilities for natural resource management applications and disaster management support, and undertake front ranking research in the areas of Space Science, Astronomy and Planetary exploration.