

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:354  
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2007  
INDIAN EXPEDITION TO ARCTIC  
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) whether the first Indian expedition to Arctic has been launched;
- (b) if so, the composition of the expedition team and its objectives;
- (c) whether the team is likely to work in cooperation with other countries;
- (d) if so the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government propose to set up a permanent station for research in Arctic;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the time by which the results achieved by the expedition are likely to be known ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a), (b), (c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The first Indian Arctic expedition was launched on 3rd August, 2007 to Spitsbergen Island in Svalbard Archipelago of Norway. The five member research team was drawn from National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa; Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad; Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune; and Lucknow University. The major areas of research in the Arctic pertain to climate change and paleoclimate; glaciology and geology; marine biology and microbiology. The scientific work has been initiated in collaboration with Norwegian Polar Research Institute, Norway.

(e),& (f) & (g) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Earth Sciences has prepared an Arctic research programme for the XI Plan period. A permanent research set up will be established by the Indian Scientists at the international research facility in Ny-Alesund in the Svalbard Archipelago of Norway. Most of the planned scientific studies in Arctic are long term. However, some of the interim results are expected in near future during the Plan period.