

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED DIARY No. 1495
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2015**

POLAR RESEARCH VESSEL

**1495. SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:
SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:**

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has acquired or proposed to acquire Polar Research Vessel;**
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the present status of such proposal; and**
- (c) the manner in which the country will be benefited by such an acquisition in their research mission?**

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

- (a) Yes, Madam. It is proposed to acquire Polar Research Vessel.**
- (b) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 29th October 2014 approved the Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) for acquisition of a Polar Research Vessel (PRV) at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 1051.13 crore. An administrative order in favour of the implementing agency National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa for acquisition of PRV has been issued on 14th November 2014.**
- (c) The vessel will help in sustaining two Indian research bases in Antarctica (Maitri and Bharti); dovetail research initiatives in the Southern Ocean domain with those in the proximal regions of the Antarctic continent; widen the thrust on Arctic research disciplines, undertaken through Indian Station Himadri; and will also provide a suitable research platform for other ocean programmes.**
