

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4541
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016**

HANDING OVER OF NCES to MoES

4541. ADV. JOICE GEORGE:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Centre for Earth Sciences (NCES) Thiruvananthapuram under the State Government of Kerala was handed over to the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in the year 2012 and if so, the purposes thereof;**
- (b) whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the State of Kerala and his Ministry at the time of the said hand over and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the State Government of Kerala and the Union Government are deriving due benefits as a result thereof; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the corrective action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)**

- (a) Centre for Earth Science Studies (CESS) Thiruvananthapuram became an autonomous institution under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) with effect from 01.01.2014 and was renamed as National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS).**

The objective of take-over of the CESS by MoES is to provide the nation with best possible services in the realm of earth system sciences through well integrated research programs to understand the complex interactions among key elements of the Earth System, namely, ocean, atmosphere and solid earth, and to promote basic and applied research in the frontier areas of Earth Sciences with particular emphasis on Solid Earth.

- (b) Yes Madam.**

An MoU was signed between the Ministry of Earth Sciences, GoI and Science and Technology Department, Government of Kerala vide certificate no. IN-DL02604383021117L dated 27.12.2013. Role of MoES and Science & Technology Department, Government of Kerala is given in Annexure-I.

(c-d) Yes Madam.

Research and development activities of NCESS covering the whole country is expected to benefit millions of people across the country and provide access to increased knowledge on earth's processes, better predictive systems for natural hazards, development of natural resources management plans, increased access to thematic maps, etc. These activities include the following four major themes;

- Geodynamics of Indian subcontinents**
- Landscape evolution**
- Water & Environment**
- Coastal Hydrodynamics**
- Natural Hazards**

With the takeover of the institute by MoES, Govt of India, the scope of research programs of NCESS has expanded further without compromising the State needs. NCESS has participated with Kerala State Council for Science, Technology & Environment (KSCSTE) for preparation of Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) of entire Kerala State and also implemented a research program to investigate on the possible impact of sea level rise along Kerala coast with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), Government of Kerala. NCESS has been spearheading many socially-relevant programs like Panchayat Resources Mapping (PRM), Rainwater Harvesting, Watershed Management, Sand Mining, Environmental Impact Studies, Landslide evaluation, Coastal Erosion, Earthquakes, Lightning etc, in addition to the generation of basic knowledge on rocks, minerals and geological evolution of Kerala State.

Further, it continues to support different periodic requirements of the Kerala Government.

Role of MoES and Science & Technology Department, Government of Kerala

(1) ROLE OF MoES, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA:

- To form a society and get it registered under the Travancore Cochin literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act, 1955, who shall take over the functions and management of CESS.
- To take over the administrative control of CESS with all its present assets, infrastructure and liabilities including that of the manpower employed (by CESS) as on 31.12.2013
- To decide upon the organizational structure of CESS as an autonomous body under the administrative control of MoES, independent from KSCSTE and GoK, considering its goals and future growth and to take all decisions pertaining to the mandate, structure and functioning of such autonomous body.
- To implement the takeover plans.
- To provide grants and funds to CESS from the date of take over.
- To receive the balance amount from the funding agencies for the projects implemented/consultancy services rendered by CESS prior to take over and to credit the amount to the account of the autonomous body under MoES.

(2) ROLE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA:

- To take all steps for handling over of the administrative control of CESS as an autonomous body to the administrative control of MoES, independent from KSCSTE and GoK and take over plan as may be mutually decided by the MoES, GoK, KSCSTE.
- To provide all assistance in transfer of 13.95 acres of Government land which currently houses the building and campus of CESS and presently under the possession of KSCSTE to such autonomous body under MoES. The land will be treated as on 99 years lease from the date of take over with a material lease rent of 1/- per acre per year vide GO(MS) No. 468/2013/RD dated 24.10.2013, with the state Government having the right to revise the lease rent appropriately, in Case the autonomous body to be set up gives up the control over the organization in favour of any other organization under GOI. Alternatively, the GOI may give an assurance that they will never hand over control of the organization to a third party. If the new society being formed by the GOI is wound up at any time in the future, the assets acquired at the time of taken over shall revert to the Government of Kerala.
- To provide all assistance in procurement of additional land, adjoining the present campus of CESS from the concerned Department of the Government of Kerala, and its allotment to the autonomous body under MoES.
- To provide all assistance in transfer of the assets including the equipment and produce of CESS to the automous body under MoES.
- To provide all necessary assistance in getting CESS registered as an autonomous body under MoES.
- To continue to provide financial assistance to CESS till the date of take over, i.e., it becomes an autonomous body under the administrative control of MoES and the liability is assumed by MoES.
- To continue to provide all necessary administrative support to CESS till its administrative control if fully assumed by MoES.