

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. **4291**
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014

ACTIVITIES OF ISRO AT INDIAN RESEARCH STATION

4291. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

- (a) whether the activities of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at the Indian Research Station 'Bharti' were shut down recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the impact thereof on research activities of ISRO; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

- (a) Yes Madam. ISRO's activities at Bharti came to a temporary halt due to the shut-down of the electric power to the satellite ground station at Bharti between 07th and 12th October, 2013.
- (b) The order to shut-down the power to the satellite ground station was issued by the then Leader of the Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica at Bharti, against specific orders from the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, the nodal agency responsible for implementing the Indian Antarctic Programme. The reason was an apparent discord between the Expedition Leader and the team from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of ISRO which was managing the satellite station.
- (c) No damage was caused to any of the equipment and no major loss of data has been reported by NRSC/ISRO, due to the shut-down of electric power.
- (d) The Leader of the Expedition was suspended with effect from Friday, 11 October, 2013 and a new interim Leader was appointed. A Fact Finding Committee has also been constituted to enquire into the entire episode. The Committee is expected to commence its enquiries as soon all members of the winter-over team of the 32nd Indian Antarctic Expedition at Bharti return to India by February, 2014.
