

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
**RAJYASABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. - 2106**  
ANSWERED ON – 21/12/2023

**OPERATIONALISATION OF MAITRI – II STATION IN ANTARCTICA**

2106. SHRI BEEDHA MASTHAN RAO YADAV:

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

- (a) whether Government intends to operationalise a new station called Maitri-II in the Antarctica;
- (b) if so, the details of progress made in this regard;
- (c) the scheduled timeline for its completion; and
- (d) the benefits proposed in this respect?

ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) Yes Sir. The government intends to operationalize a new research station in East Antarctica, near existing Indian research base Maitri.
- (b) Site for new station has been identified. Preliminary topographical survey for approach road is underway.
- (c) The details of the scheduled timelines for its completion are as follows:
  - I. Development of Master plan, hiring of consultant & designing: **18 months.**
  - II. Drafting of tender and tendering, award and signing of contract, site survey by consultants, road cutting and formations at site: **18 months.**
  - III. Prefabrication/procurement's at mainland, transportation to Cape Town/ Antarctica/ Indian Barrier to site and preparation for construction in Antarctica by the construction company: **18 months.**
  - IV. Transportation of final components from Indian Barrier to site and construction in Antarctica by the construction company: **12 months.**
  - V. Completion of construction: **January 2029.**
- (d) The existing Indian research station 'Maitri' is very old. It is imperative to build a new research station. The proposed project envisages adherence to environmental protocol for Antarctica and improving the quality of Indian scientific research in Antarctica.

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