

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 5
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015**

PROCUREMENT OF POLAR RESEARCH VESSEL

5. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to procure a polar research vessel and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the said vessel will boost India's scientific expeditions in the polar region and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. 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 and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa for acquisition of PRV has been issued on 14th November 2014.**
- (b) Yes, Sir. The vessel is expected to contribute to India's scientific expeditions towards 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, in addition to providing a suitable research platform for other ocean research programmes.**
