

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION. No. 1608
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015**

PLAN TO SET UP A POLAR RESEARCH COLLABORATION CENTRE

1608 PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a plan to set up a polar research collaboration centre with Norway, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the major decisions in that aspect with regard to India's geo-political agenda; and**
- (c) the estimated date for the project launch?**

ANSWER

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

- (a) No Sir. There is however, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI), Tromso and the ESSO-National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), the Goa-based R&D Institution of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, for long-term collaboration in the areas of scientific research and logistics operations in the polar (Arctic and Antarctic) realm. Since 2008, India, under the aegis of ESSO-MoES is also maintaining a research base "Himdari" at Ny-Ålesund in the Svalbard archipelago of the Arctic.**
- (b) The scientific Agenda for polar research collaborations between India and Norway is primarily aimed at understanding the global climate change, with emphasis on the linkage between the polar climate variability and the Indian monsoon.**
- (c) Does not arise.**
