

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1731
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2013

NODAL AGENCY FOR GAS HYDRATE EXPLORATION

1731. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) has been mandated as the nodal agency responsible for implementation of the scientific aspects of the study related to gas hydrate exploration in the country;
- (b) if so, how it is different from the consortium named National Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) constituted in 1997 under Directorate of Hydrocarbons, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as a nodal head for research and exploration of gas hydrates: and
- (c) what would be the role of NCAOR when study regarding exploration part of gas hydrates in the country is over?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) NCAOR, in association with National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) has been mandated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences to implement science component of the programme on gas hydrates. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is responsible for implementation of the technology development component. The role of NGHP is more exploratory in nature and site-specific, aimed at estimating the potential reserves of gas hydrates, whereas gas hydrate programme of Ministry of Earth Sciences is focused on scientific research and development of technology.
- (c) NCAOR is responsible for assimilation of marine geo-scientific data collected under the programme, development of database management system and data archival.
