

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION **652**
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2013

RESEARCH STATIONS IN ARCTIC AND ANTARCTICA

652. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

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

- (a) whether India intends to increase research stations in Arctic and Antarctica;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether India has ice-breakers for exploration and research in the above places;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) what steps Government contemplates for construction of indigenous ice-breakers?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No, Sir
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) India presently has two research stations at Antarctica namely 'Maitri' and 'Bharati'. New station 'Bharati' has just been constructed and established in March, 2013. At both the stations, research and investigations are undertaken to understand the Polar processes and phenomenon. Observations and studies are carried out in atmospheric, biological, geological, ecological sciences etc. Maitri station has been in operation since 1989.

Indian Arctic station 'Himadri' is located at Ny Alesund, Spitsbergen Island, Norway and serves as a hub of Indian scientific investigations since 2008.

- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) In Antarctica scientific studies and investigations are undertaken on the continental part and contiguous shelf ice area. Observations in the ocean in austral summer months are made during the voyage to 'Maitri' and 'Bharati' on board the chartered vessel hired for transport of material and personnel to these stations.

At Arctic also, meteorological, biological, glaciological and past climate studies are undertaken in the vicinity of the station 'Himadri'. Local boats are hired for marine research.

A chartered ice breaker ship along with cargo vessel has been used during the construction of "Bharti" Station in Larsemann Hills. Earlier, chartered vessels were used for transporting the personnel and material for the Maitri station.

- (f) Acquisition/construction of Polar Research Vessel is under consideration.
