

Satellite to monitor sea water levels

3360. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to launch a satellite to monitor sea water levels in collaboration with the French National Space Agency (FNSA); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) India plans to launch SARAL (Satellite with ARGOS and ALTIKA) satellite in collaboration with the French National Space Agency (Centre National D'etudes Spatiales - CNES) to monitor the sea water levels.

The SARAL satellite will carry an Altimeter (ALTIKA) for studying the sea surface heights; and ARGOS payload, which is a satellite based data collection platform. The satellite is planned to be launched in 2011.

Space exploration by ISRO

3361. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the whether ISRO has any plans for space exploration in the coming years in collaboration with other foreign country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when such exploration would be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Chandrayaan-II, the second mission to the Moon, is a joint effort between India and Russia. ISRO will have the prime responsibility for the Orbiter and Rover; and Russian Space Agency (ROSCOSMOS), will be responsible to provide the Lander module. The spacecraft will be launched using India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) from Sriharikota, India.

(c) The Chandrayaan-II mission is expected to be realized during 2013.

Indigenous technology for Chandrayaan-II

3362. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether indigenous space technology so far developed by ISRO experts has been utilized in Chandrayaan-II, which is scheduled to be launched in 2013 from Sriharikota;