RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 5th May, 2005/15 *Vaisakha,* 1927 *(Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

REFERENCE BY CHAIR

Successful Launching of the CARTOSAT-1 and HAMSAT with PSLV from ISRO new launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sure all the hon. Members of this august e will join me in congratulating the Indian Space Research isation of today's successful launch of the CARTOSAT-1 with PSLV. lunch took place form ISRO's new launch pad built at Satish Dhawan *i* Centre SHAR, Sriharikota, India's premier launch centre. This pad is one of the most sophisticated in its capability and can meet ly the needs of the present generation of PSLV and GSLV but also more advanced versions to be built in the next decade and beyond. Successful launch of PSLV from this launch pad is a major milestone ICs plan to develop state-of-the-art infrastructure for conducting launch operations.

The primary satellite in this mission is a 1560 Kg state-of-the-art te sensing satellite CARTOSAT-1, carrying a camera system to picture from space, that can delineate features to the level of 2.5 and in the forward and aft directions along the path of the satellite, a capability provides a unique method of producing three-isional details of the ground terrain. Among other things the various abilities include newer applications in the rural and urban opment, disaster assessment, relief planning and management,

environment impact assessment and various other geographical information system applications. The satellite is expected to pioneer a new era of mapping.

CARTOSAT-1 joins the constellation of Indian Remote Sensing Satellites, the largest in the civilian domain anywhere in the world. These satellites provide vital data on land and ocean resources hot only to meet the Indian needs but also of the global remote sensing community. This mission is expected to further strengthen India's pre-eminent position among the handful of countries who design, launch and operate sate-of-the-art remote sensing satellites.

A similar 42 kg satellite called HAMSAT was also placed in the orbit during this launch. HAMSAT is the Indian contribution to the international community of amateur radio operators.

Alongwith all the hon. Members, I take this opportunity to warmly greet the entire ISRO community and also other organisations, both public and private which were closely associated with ISRO in the realisation of this important mission. The entire country lauds them for this singular achievement.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, 1 share the nation's sense of delight and pride at the news that we have received from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. Sir, you have already mentioned the successful launch of the PSLV-C6 carrying CARTOSAT-1 and HAMSAT payloads this morning from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in the presence of the hon. President of India. This is indeed yet another significant milestone in the Indian space programme. The state-of-the-art second launch pad, which the President dedicated to the nation this morning, augments our launch capabilities considerably and reaffirms once again the emergence of India as a major space power. Space, technology and applications have become a very significant part of our scientific and development capabilities. The launch of CARTOSAT-1 will herald a new era in advanced remote sensing applications. The launch of the smaller HAMSAT will be a welcome resource for the community of amateur radio enthusiasts. Sir, the nation is truly proud of the achievement of our dedicated scientists and engineers of the Indian Space Research Organisation. I am sure all hon. Members will join me and join you in congratulating our scientists and technologists and wishing them still greater success in the years to come.