

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The launch of GSLV-F06 that took place on December 25, 2010 was unsuccessful. The performance of the vehicle was normal up to 47.5 seconds from lift-off. Subsequently, the vehicle started developing larger errors in its orientation leading to build-up of higher structural loads and consequently the vehicle broke up at 53.8 seconds from lift-off. As per the Range safety norms, a destruct command was issued from the ground at 64 seconds from lift-off.

The reason for the unsuccessful launch of GSLV-F06 flight has been the untimely and inadvertent snapping of a group of 10 connectors located at the bottom portion of the Russian Cryogenic Stage. This led to stoppage of continuous flow of control commands to the First Stage control electronics, consequently leading to loss of control and break-up of the vehicle.

(c) As of now, ISRO doesn't have any plans to undertake manned mission to the moon.

(d) A Failure Analysis Committee has been constituted to assess the cause of the failure, and it has carried out in-depth analysis of the GSLV-F06 flight data. Based on the recommendations made by the committee, all necessary corrective actions and steps will be taken to implement them in the future flights of GSLV.

Agreement with Devas Multimedia

429. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Antrix reached an agreement with Devas Multimedia to lease S-band transponder capacity in the year 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement therein;

(c) whether competitive bids were invited prior to the agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereto; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Antrix Corporation Limited have signed an agreement with M/s. Devas on January 28, 2005 which provides for leasing of 90% of the Space Segment capacity on two satellites for twelve years.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The multimedia services through satellite using S-band was an evolving technology, being introduced for the first time in the country. Consistent with the practice in vogue, no competitive bidding was adopted for leasing of transponders.