

16.12.2010, has requested the concerned Central Ministries/Deptts. to *inter alia*, ensure that the above instructions of the Planning Commission, in respect of SCSP, were fully complied with, in preparation of their Annual Plan as well as Detailed Demands for Grants for 2011-12.

Detection of debris of crashed helicopter by satellites

1987. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO Satellite has been able to detect the debris of the crashed helicopter in Arunachal Pradesh on April 30, 2011;

(b) if not, whether this failure pose a serious threat to the guarding of the sensitive border with People's Republic of China; and

(c) the steps that have been taken by ISRO to rectify the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY):

(a) No, Sir. If the crashed helicopter had carried a standard distress alert beacon, the chances of a search and rescue satellite detecting the crash would have been greater. The debris could not be located through our remote sensing satellites as these small objects were in a region covered with thick forest.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The microwave remote sensing satellites planned for future will improve the possibility of detection under cloud coverage, but it would be very difficult to detect debris of very small size in a thick forest covered region.

Pricing of remote sensing data products

1988. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to streamline the pricing of its remote sensing data products to its global customers since the higher resolution satellite data in the global market were six times more than the price of comparable Indian remote sensing products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the performance of three out of seven remote sensing satellites are below their maximum capacity in terms of the number of remote sensing satellite data captured by them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to explore the possibility of widening the customer base to create revenue from remote sensing satellite datas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The data products are made available to Indian users at affordable prices as a "public good" service as per the pricing policy. The International prices of Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) data products are fixed taking into account the prevailing international prices.

(c) and (d) The average capacity utilization, during 2002-08, of three of the seven Indian Remote Sensing Satellites namely IRS-P3, IRS-1C and IRS-P4 was 32%, 45% and 50% respectively of their maximum capacity, as observed in the Audit report of C & AG (Report No. 21 of 2010-11).

The IRS-P3, an experimental satellite launched in 1995 and IRS-1C launched in 1996 had completed their design life of three years by 1998 and 1999, respectively. The IRS-P4 Satellite launched in 1999 had completed its design life of five years by 2004.

Every Satellite has a design life in the orbit. However, based on the knowledge acquired over the years, the Department of Space was successful in operating them beyond their design life with some limited capacity utilization, by more efficient and effective mission management practices. IRS-P3 and IRS-1C were thus in their extended life period during the period under report.

In some cases, the Satellites would develop technical problems while in the orbit, limiting their capacity. In the case of IRS-P4 Satellite, there was a reduction in the availability of power onboard the Satellite that limited its capacity utilization since 2001.

(e) Steps taken by NRSC to widen the customer/user base of remote sensing data includes (i) Internet based User friendly On-line ordering system; (ii) Conducting annual User Interaction Meet; (iii) Participation in the Workshops/ conferences/Exhibitions and various meetings of the user Ministries/Departments to show case the potentials of remote sensing products; (iv) Publishing advertise-ments in scientific journals/magazines highlighting new products and services; (v) Popularizing the availability of products and services through various ISRO/DOS portals (BHUVAN portal is one typical example of popularizing IRS data for Indian and Global users); (vi) positioning appropriate infrastructure towards improved turnaround time for supplying data products; (vii)

Providing data to Indian users at affordable price as a "public good service"; (viii) setting up of International Ground stations to receive IRS data by global customer; and (ix) promotion and sale of products to international customers.

Launching of GSAT-12

1989. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether GSAT-12 is to be launched;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The GSAT-12 satellite was launched on 15th July, 2011 aboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC), Sriharikota.

(c) the objectives of GSAT-12 satellite carrying 12 Transponders in Extended C-band frequencies, are to augment the transponder capacity and also to provide continuity to Societal Services like Tele-medicine, Tele-education, Village Resource Centres, Disaster Management Support, etc.

Iron ore mining in Kudremukh National Park

1990. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking of reviving iron ore mining in Kudremukh National Park, located in the ecologically sensitive area of the Western Ghats in Karnataka;

(b) whether Kudremukh Iron Ore Cooperation Ltd. (KIOCL) has given any request to Government for permission to restart the mining operations in the land leased to the company; and

(c) whether Government would take any steps to hand over the leased land of 5000 hectares area now under the control of Kudremukh Iron Ore Cooperation Ltd., back to the forest department for amalgamation into the Kudremukh National Park?