

(b) International synergy in larger space science missions will benefit India to bring-in the cutting edge technologies; to overcome the technological complexities; to get access to global scientific knowledge base; to optimize the cost and human resources of India and to achieve the scientific goals in shorter time.

Damages due to asteroids impact

2892. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Earth Scientists, India would be hard hit by catastrophic damages that would be caused by the above;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with an action plan to control such holocausts;

(c) whether as per their research, the loss so suffered would not be impossible to be made good; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Satellite to monitor unprecedented climatic conditions

2893. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to launch separate satellite specially to monitor unprecedented climatic conditions as due to lack of any reliable information, particularly about rain, our farming communities are facing huge financial losses; and

(b) if, so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no plan to launch a separate satellite specially to monitor unprecedented climatic conditions in near future.

However, ISRO is planning to launch a meteorological satellite, INSAT-3D to monitor atmospheric characteristics viz. cloud motion winds, vertical profiles of

humidity and temperature, total precipitable water, sea surface temperature over Indian Ocean, outgoing radiation etc. The satellite is scheduled for launch during 2013.

The data obtained from this satellite along with ground based observations would help to derive information about climatic conditions, including rain.

Fund earmarked for SCSP and TSP

2894. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds earmarked for Schedule Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) during last five financial year as per guidelines issued by Planning Commission *vide* its letter dated 26th December, 2006;

(b) if no such fund were earmarked during the last five years, reasons therefor;

(c) whether separate Budget Head has been opened for SCSP and TSP for financial year 2011-12. as mandated by the Department of Expenditure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) Space Programmes are planned and implemented on a National basis and are not considered on the basis of Region, State, Category, etc.

Removal of import duty on steel

2895. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had written to the Ministry of Finance seeking removal of import duty on steel;

(b) whether the Ministry of Finance has agreed to remove import duty on iron ore lumps, fines and pellets;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the development assumes significance because the Supreme Court impose mining ban in Karnataka and Goa and also the regulation of mining by Odisha Government have severely affected the availability of iron ore; and