

(c) Government of the Republic of India and Government of the United States of America signed a Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA) at New Delhi on July 20, 2009.

The Technology Safeguard Agreement will enable US to grant export licenses for the US satellites and for other countries' satellites containing US components, meant for non commercial purpose for launch from India. Since July, 2009, ISRO has launched 13 foreign satellites (from Algeria, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Singapore, Switzerland and Turkey) using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle. The responsibility of obtaining export licenses, for launch of satellites from India, rests with the respective countries.

Designing of Geo Imaging Satellite

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

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation is designing Geo Imaging Satellite (GI-SAT) which will be put in space and constantly watch and alerts authorities 36,000 km. below the trouble spots, natural disaster etc. within few minutes of the event;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the 1000 kg. satellite will also keep a watch over our sensitive borders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is designing a satellite – GEO Imaging Satellite (GISAT), which will be placed in geostationary orbit of 36,000 km. GISAT will provide near real time pictures of large areas of the country, under cloud free conditions, at frequent intervals. That is, selected Sector-wise imaging every 5 minutes and entire Indian landmass every 30 minutes at 50m spatial resolution.

(c) and (d) GISAT will carry a GEO Imager with multi-spectral (visible, near infrared and thermal), multi-resolution (50m to 1.5 km.) imaging instruments. It will provide pictures of the area of interest on near real time basis including border areas.