

Expenditure on launching of satellite system

†2133. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched its first satellite out of seven planned satellites under Regional Navigation Satellite System and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the purpose and likely strategic use of above system; and

(c) by when, other satellite under this system will be launched and the total financial expenditure of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Yes, Sir. The first satellite, IRNSS-1A, out of seven satellites under Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), has been successfully launched on 1st July, 2013 onboard PSLV-C22 from Sriharikota. After a series of orbital maneuvers, the satellite reached the intended inclined geosynchronous orbit on 14th July, 2013. The in-orbit testing of the payload and testing of various ground systems are in progress.

The purpose of IRNSS is to provide positioning services over Indian region with an absolute position accuracy of better than 20 metres. IRNSS shall provide two types of applications, Standard Position Service (SPS), which is open to all users and Restricted Services (RS) which is an encrypted position service meant for strategic users.

The next satellite IRNSS-1B is targeted for launch during first half of 2014, after evaluation of the on-orbit performance of the first satellite, IRNSS-1A. It is targeted to complete the constellation of 7 satellites by 2015. The total financial outlay for 7 satellites constellation of IRNSS and the associated ground segment is Rs. 1420 crores, excluding launch cost.

Consumption/export of steel products

2134. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of iron ore and finished steel produced, consumed and exported during each of the last three years, value-wise;

(b) whether the domestic steel industry is suffering from fall in profits and turnover due to the shortage of iron ore and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.