Undue benefit to DTH service provider

2520. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the recent report of CAG, undue benefits have been extended by Department of Space to DTH service provider Tata Sky by delaying in launch of satellites, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government would inquire into the extending undue benefits to Tata Sky and fix responsibility in this regard and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. As per the Report of the CAG of India No. 22 of 2014 (Compliance Audit) pertaining to management of satellite capacity for DTH service by Department of Space (DOS), CAG has referred to the delay in realisation of satellites for DTH services while commenting on inability to realise satellite with Ku band transponders during Eleventh Five Year Plan. The delay in realisation of satellite was not in relation to the M/s Tatasky contract.

(b) The CAG report has been tabled in Parliament and the Department of Space is preparing the Action Taken Note (ATN) for the same. Public Accounts Committee (PAC) called DOS for a witness examination on February 10, 2015 and referred the subject matter to sub-committee of PAC on infrastructure.

Purpose of Mangalyaan

2521. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose of Mangalyaan, when was it sent to the space; and

(b) the returns uptill now and that we would achieve in future course?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), popularly known as Mangalyaan is India's first interplanetary mission. The objectives of the Mars Orbiter Mission include:

- Realization of a Mars Orbiter spacecraft of 1350 kg mass.
- Launching of Mars Orbiter spacecraft by India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-XL.

- Placing the spacecraft in an elliptical orbit of 366 km X 80,000 km around Mars by September, 2014 after a voyage of 300 days from the Earth's orbit.
- Studying Mars surface features, morphology, mineralogy and Martian atmosphere, using scientific instruments on-board the spacecraft, during the orbital life of the spacecraft around Mars.

(b) The significant returns of MOM up-till now include:

- By successfully placing the Mars Orbiter Spacecraft into an elliptical orbit around Mars on September 24, 2014, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) became the fourth space agency to successfully send a spacecraft to Mars orbit and India became the first country in the world to do so in its first attempt.
- Technological up-gradation in the area of space technology including on-board autonomy, miniaturisation, deep space communication etc.
- Excellent opportunities in planetary research for the scientific community of the country.
- Enthused the younger generation to take up space science and planetary research.
- Earned recognition as the most economical interplanetary mission in the world.
- Collection of images of the Martian surface by Mars Colour Camera and data from other scientific instruments on-board Mars Orbiter.

The expected returns in future course includes collection of the scientific datasets and analysis of the scientific datasets to study the Mars surface features and Martian atmosphere.

Cost of launching of satellite

2522. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether launching of satellite like GSAT 16 abroad is quite expensive;

(b) whether the price tag for the GSAT 16 comes to about ₹ 900 crore and of this the foreign launch costs come to around ₹ 560 crore;

(c) whether has the next generation GSLV Mark III, which take four tonne communication satellite, been operational that launch might have cost only about half as much; and

(d) whether the cryogenic engine for the upper stage for the Mark III is still being developed?