

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The launching of a satellite like GSAT-16 (of 3000 Kg class) on-board foreign launch vehicle costs higher as compared to launching on-board indigenous launch vehicle GSLV Mk III, which is under development.

(b) The cost of GSAT-16 satellite was ₹ 297.50 crores and the procured launch cost was US \$ 88.26 million.

(c) Yes, Sir. Substantial reduction in cost of launching four tonne class of communication satellites is anticipated after the development and operationalisation of GSLV Mark III vehicle.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Cryogenic Engine for the upper stage of GSLV Mark III is under development. It has successfully undergone two short duration ignition trials at the ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri and other developmental tests are in progress.

#### **Allocation to the increased fund**

2523. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of the increased funds received for your department in the budget this year;

(b) whether any new proposals are being taken up to incentivize the Launch Vehicle Technology projects in view of the hike;

(c) the number of launch pads in India; and

(d) whether any steps are going to be taken to increase the number in view of the exponential development in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to increase the budget allocations in 2015-16 for Space Technology by ~27% compared to RE allocation made during previous financial year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At present, India has two Satellite launching pads located at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

(d) Yes, Sir. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) proposes to establish a third launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota to support increased

launch frequency, provide active redundancy to existing launch pads and to support launching requirements of advanced launch vehicles. Further work on design of the launch pad will be taken up at an appropriate time after finalising the configuration of the advanced launch vehicle, operationalisation of GSLV MIII, programmatic requirements and resource availability.

**Joint Mars exploration between ISRO and NASA**

2524. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting for joint Mars Exploration between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was held, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether talk to launch joint mission to observe the planetary structure was also held, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any working group to improve the cooperation between the two countries was established, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The members of ISRO - NASA Mars Working Group held a meeting in Bangalore during 29th to 31st January, 2015 to discuss possible collaborations between ISRO and NASA in Mars science and exploration.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. ISRO - NASA Mars Working Group has been formed in September 2014 to discuss possible collaboration between ISRO and NASA in Mars science and exploration.

**Set up of porta cabins under MPLADS fund**

2525. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up porta cabins under the MPLADS fund for operating grocery and consumer stores on public land by co-operative societies and disabled persons and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of Members of Parliament who have accorded their consensus to sanction the MPLADS fund for the said purposes?