

(d) Department of Space is mandated for harnessing the benefits of space technology for national development.

Policy for space tourism

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

(a) whether there is a policy for space tourism in India if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, whether the Ministry is planning to promote space tourism in India and if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Preparation of space act

598. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to come out with a Space Act soon;

(b) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had submitted papers to Government in this regard way back in 2015;

(c) whether now-a-days space related activities are done as per business rules and therefore, it has become necessary to have a law since Government is responsible for any object put up in space and for what happens to it in orbit or because of it; and

(d) if so, the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The Department of Space (DOS) is currently engaged in preparation of National Space Act for India for supporting the overall growth of space activities, with enhanced level of private sector participation and offering more commercial opportunities. After consultations with internal experts and experts on space law, a draft version of the Act has been prepared, which has been taken up for consultations.

(b) During the year 2015, DOS/ISRO has pursued the preparation of space act and reached a draft version. This has been taken up for approval process for pre-legislative consultations. This would be followed by Inter-Ministerial consultations through Draft Cabinet Note, before putting up as a Bill to Parliament.