

(b) whether it is a fact that currently working satellites are only half of country's requirements;

(c) if so, whether it seriously affects country's ability to use satellite based solutions for governance;

(d) what steps would be taken to speed up manufacturing and use of more satellites; and

(e) whether the Department plans to promote the use of drones wherever it can be a substitute for satellite based solutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) India presently has 38 operational satellites in orbit comprising of 16 Earth Observation (including meteorological), 13 Communication, 7 Navigational and 2 Space Science satellites. 32 satellites are currently under various stages of manufacturing.

(b) and (c) The currently operational satellites are being utilised to their full capacity to meet the demands of Central & State Governments and business in the area of natural resources management, infrastructure planning, disaster management support, enabling weather forecasting, including the demands of satellite communication.

(d) To ensure continuity of services and to meet further demands in these areas, suitable augmentation of space infrastructure is under consideration. ISRO is making focused efforts towards enhancing technical facilities, optimisation of the satellites building process and "increased involvement of the industry through appropriate transfer of technology and hand-holding for manufacturing of integrated systems/sub-systems, including assembly and testing by vendor as per ISRO's design.

(e) Drones provide information pertaining to a localised area and cannot substitute the information obtained from satellites. Department of Space proposes to use Drones, wherever it could suitably supplement the space based information.

Chandrayaan-2 Mission

2694. SHRI DILIPKUMAR TIRKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan-2 Mission;

(b) how much cost is involved in the said Mission; and

(c) by when the Mission is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Chandrayaan-2, India's second mission to the Moon, is a totally indigenous

mission comprising of Orbiter, Lander and Rover. The Orbiter will study the moon from 100 km lunar orbit, the lander will soft-land on the lunar surface and the Rover will roll out of the lander to perform *in-situ* observations. The mission is planned to be launched onboard GSLVMk-II.

- (b) The cost of the mission is ₹ 603.00 crore.
- (c) ISRO is working towards the launch of Chandrayaan-2 during the first quarter of 2018.

Recognition of organisations implementing 20 point programme

†2695. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain organisations in some States had been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing 20 Point Programme enunciated by the then Prime Minister late Shrimati Indira Gandhi;
- (b) whether Government had nominated certain organisations to execute the said programme under parallel arrangement;
- (c) whether this responsibility had also been given to an organization of West Bengal named Tapsil Jati Adibasi Praktan Sainik Krishi Bikash Shilpa Kendra under which around 6500 persons are working; and
- (d) if so, whether Government proposes to recognise the said organisation as was assured?

THE MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) Twenty Point Programme is a package of various welfare Programmes/Schemes of Government of India administered by the Central nodal Ministries and primarily implemented by the State Governments / UT Administrations. The Central Government has not at any stage entrusted the responsibility of implementing the Twenty Point Programme or any part of it to any non-government or private organisation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Cost overrun of projects

2696. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that cost overrun of Central sector projects came down by 23 per cent as in March, 2016 as compared to the level five years ago;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.