

Even though America was the first country to have landed a human being on the surface of moon way back in 1969, it was our Indian Lunar Mission called Chandrayaan-1 which discovered the presence of water on the surface of moon. It was for the first time that the world got a hint or the possibility of human habitat there. And this is going to be an extension of the same mission which will carry a lander and a rover. It will be in the space for 59 days before it ultimately lands in the month of September. The lander will move out and the rover will carry the samples. This mission is going to do enormous research and bring useful inputs not just from Indian point of view but the entire world.

On the other part of the question, whether a team of hon. Members of Parliament can witness the launch, I would take this up with the team ISRO. I don't know what the constraints and considerations are in this kind of a suggestion. But certainly I would use this opportunity.

श्री उपसभापति: धन्यवाद, मंत्री जी। ऐसा लगता है कि माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर से सभी लोग संतुष्ट हैं, क्योंकि इस पर कोई अगला सवाल नहीं है।

*65. [The Question was absent]

**Circular regarding unethical practices of suppliers
of Kendriya Bhandar**

*65. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether OSD (Vigilance) of Kendriya Bhandar has issued a Circular dated 7.6.2019 stating that certain suppliers of Kendriya Bhandar are doing business in most unethical, unprincipled and unscrupulous manner for promoting their business;

(b) if so, the details of unethical tactics adopted by them for promoting their business; and

(c) whether certain employees of Kendriya Bhandar have charged more than the rates fixed by Kendriya Bhandar from their customers and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Misuse of Kendriya Bhandar letter heads, multiple bids in the same tender under different names of entities and other malpractices are some of such instances.

(c) Yes Sir. Four such cases have been reported. Penalties have been imposed in 03 cases and disciplinary proceedings have been initiated in 01 case.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 65, Questioner is absent. Any supplementaries!

श्री अमर शंकर साबले: माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या केन्द्रीय भंडार से 3 लाख रुपए तक की purchase करने के लिए Government का circular निकल सकता है?

डा. जितेन्द्र सिंह: सभापति जी, hon. Member ने जो केन्द्रीय भंडार से संबंधित प्रश्न पूछा है, वास्तव में जैसा हमारे ध्यान में है कि केन्द्रीय भंडार की जब स्थापना हुई थी, आज से लगभग 50-55 वर्ष पहले, 1963 में, उस समय यह Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society के रूप में था। उसके उपरांत वर्ष 2000 में इसे Multi-State Cooperation Society के रूप में परिवर्तित कर दिया गया, जिसमें लगभग 51 प्रतिशत शेयर सरकार का रहता है। इसके मापदंड स्थापित हैं कि कितनी purchases होंगी, किस तरह की होंगी। इसके अनेक retail stores हैं, दिल्ली में ही लगभग 109 हैं। देश के अन्य भागों में भी फैले हुए हैं। बुनियादी तौर पर इसका उद्देश्य और मकसद यह था कि सरकारी अधिकारियों को कुछ वस्तुएं या रोज़मर्रा की चीज़ें सस्ते दामों पर और अच्छी क्वालिटी में वहां उपलब्ध रहें। कौन-कौन सी चीज़ें वहां उपलब्ध करानी हैं, उसके लिए हमारा एक बोर्ड है, गवर्निंग बॉडी है, जिसके 9 Directors हैं। वे समय-समय पर जिस प्रकार की आवश्यकता होती है, तदनुसार निर्णय लेते हैं।

श्री उपसभापति: मैं समझता हूँ कि इस प्रश्न पर कोई दूसरा supplementary नहीं है।

India's rank in Global Gender Equality Index

*66. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is ranked 95th out of 129 countries in recently published Global Gender Equality Index and if so, the details thereof:

(b) whether the country is lagging behind in achieving several sustainable development goals included for the ranking; and

(c) whether Government has any strategy to promote gender equality in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Equal Measures 2030 (EM2030), a joint effort of regional and global organisations from civil society, development and private sectors, has published Global Gender Equality Index and ranked India in 95th position out of 129 countries.