

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2049

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 05, 2021

LIBERALIZATION OF SPACE SECTOR

2049. SHRI K.J. ALPHONS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps that Government has taken to encourage private players to invest in planetary exploration and outer space travel after opening up of the space sector;
- (b) in what manner Government would ensure a level playing field to the private firms so that they can also contribute to India's space sector;
- (c) the requirements which are needed to be fulfilled by the private firms to procure the license to use the facilities and infrastructure at the ISRO; and
- (d) in what manner Government is planning to implement its liberal geospatial data policy which will benefit tech entrepreneurs to use satellite data?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG &

PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

- (a) Government of India has announced space sector reforms in June 2020. A National Level autonomous Nodal Agency namely Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) is being established under DOS for promoting, handholding, authorising and licensing private players to carry out Space Activities. ISRO will also identify areas to offer challenges to industries in new domains of technology and Announcement of opportunity will be made for selected science and exploration missions to private industries.

- (b) The space sector reforms were made with the intention to provide level playing field for private companies and enable them to carry out end-to-end space activities through the following:
- Authorizing and monitoring private sector's space activities as per regulatory provisions.
 - Access to DOS facilities and expertise are extended to private entities to support their space activities.
 - Announcement of Opportunities were done offering challenges in new domains of space technology.
 - Government of India is encouraging transfer the technologies developed in the field of space to Indian industries.
 - Apart from this, Government of India is bringing in new sector policies and guidelines and also revising existing policies.
- (c) The requirements for giving permission for access to facilities and infrastructure at ISRO will be worked out by Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), a national level autonomous Nodal Agency under DOS which is being established.
- (d) Department of Space has drafted a new Remote Sensing Policy-2021 which has already undergone public consultation and is now under the government approval process. This policy is open, liberal and forward looking, which will provide several opportunities to the Indian industries to participate in the earth observation program of the country.

The Indian industries and startups will be able to bring in better and innovative solutions for public good and improve business prospects. It is intended to make available all IRS satellite data having 5 meter and coarser resolution, all the past IRS data and satellite derived thematic maps on 'free of charge' basis through web. An easy access of space based remote sensing data and information shall enable unfolding of knowledge based solutions and 'ease of data access' which would certainly benefit tech entrepreneurs and geospatial industry in building friendly ecosystem for developmental planning, decision making and use of satellite data.
