

Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari (Rajasthan), Shri Pabitra Margherita (Assam), Shri Rambhai Harjibhai Mokariya (Gujarat), Shri Deepak Prakash (Jharkhand), Shrimati Kanta Kardam (Uttar Pradesh), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha) and Shri Ram Chander Jangra (Haryana).

### **Need for India's effective engagement in the Arctic Region**

SHRI A.D. SINGH (Bihar): Sir, India fulfilled a long-standing need and signalled its rising interest and stakes in the Arctic with the release of the Arctic Policy on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. The study of the Arctic is critical to the Indian scientists as it influences our monsoon which directly impacts agricultural sector on which almost 60 per cent of India's population is dependent. The rising sea levels due to the Arctic ice melt also threaten India's 1,300 island territories and the welfare of 1.4 billion Indians. The Arctic meltdown also helps Indian scientists better understand the glacier melt-down in the Himalayas, the largest source of fresh water outside the Poles and home to almost all the Indian perennial rivers. It is for this reason that India is the only developing country, apart from China, to have a Permanent Research Station in the Arctic since 2008 and has undertaken 13 scientific expeditions to the region.

The Arctic, therefore, presents India with a complex set of opportunities as well as challenges to secure its increasing national interest. Firstly, India should seek a more inclusive and equitable Arctic Council with a greater say for the Observer States in the decision making process and more freedom in pursuance of their research objectives in the Arctic Region.

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

Secondly, India should also fine-tune its own internal mechanism to impart a greater impetus to its Arctic endeavours with a more singular, co-ordinated and cohesive approach by appointing an Arctic Co-ordinator. I urge upon the Government to co-ordinate its efforts in playing a pivotal role in the Arctic Region. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by Shri A.D. Singh: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu) and Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha).

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