

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1481
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018**

EXPEDITIONS TO ANTARCTICA

1481. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that annual missions to maintain three Indian bases in Antarctica will continue;**
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there will be more expeditions and research focus on the other poles; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(Dr. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a) Yes, Sir. Annual expedition to Antarctica to maintain India's two stations viz Maitri and Bharati is continuing. India's first station "Dakshin Gangotri" was decommissioned in 1990.**
- (b) Yes, Sir.**
- (c) India commenced its dedicated Arctic research in 2007 and later established its Arctic research base 'Himadri' in 2008. India continues to send expeditions to Arctic each year since 2008 in the Norwegian Arctic, Svalbard. India's Arctic research includes atmospheric, biological, marine and earth sciences and glaciological studies. Ministry of Earth Sciences has also established a high-altitude research station in Himalaya called "HIMANSH", at a height of 13,500 feet (4000 m), at a remote region in Lahaul - Spiti, Himachal Pradesh to study and quantify the Himalayan Glacier response to climate change.**
