

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1731**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018

**TAPPING OF SMALL CITIES FOR INNOVATION**

1731. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that ISRO is considering to tap small cities for innovations;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that more space research activities would be splashed in a big way across small cities to tap their talent and include them in the space footprint; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG &  
PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

- (a) Yes, Sir. ISRO is considering small cities across the country to tap for talents in innovation.
- (b) Yes, ISRO is making efforts to involve more academic institutes, start-ups and small industries from various parts of the country for space research activities, with a focus on states, where ISRO does not have a presence.
- (c) ISRO is in the process of establishing six nos. each of Technology Incubation Centres for Space and Regional Academic Centres for Space in a phased manner. The main objective is to create a nation-wide interest among students, researchers and inventors to engage and contribute for nation's space programme. The first Technology Incubation Centre for Space was inaugurated at NIT, **Agartala** (covering Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura). Further to this, similar centres are planned at **Jalandhar** (covering J&K, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi & Haryana), **Indore** (covering Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh & Chattisgarh), **Rourkela** (covering Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim

and Andaman Nicobar), **Nagpur** (covering Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Rajasthan) and **Trichy** (covering Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Pondicherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep).

Regional Academic Centre for Space has one lead academic institute at each region supported by 8 to 10 nearby academic institutes. These are proposed at **Guwahati, Patna, Varanasi, Kurukshetra, Jaipur** and **Kanyakumari**. ISRO will provide research projects along with essential funding and review mechanisms in these initiatives, thus tapping talents across the nation to get involved and contribute for space research activities.

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