

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1896**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022

**FOREIGN COLLABORATION IN SPACE EXPLORATION**

1896. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any agreement with any country or group of countries to collaborate in space exploration ventures over the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether all countries are depending on India for space science related activities and satellites utilities, if so, the details of the amount of foreign exchange earned by space science during each of the last five calendar years;
- (d) whether there is any gratuitous providing of space science related technology including satellite service to neighbouring small countries and poor countries of the world; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES  
& PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

**(DR. JITENDRA SINGH):**

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- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) of Government of India has signed 04 (four) cooperative documents specifically to collaborate in space exploration with USA (for accommodating USA instruments in India's Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3); Japan

(to conduct feasibility study for a joint lunar polar exploration mission) and UK (to conduct feasibility study for collaboration in future space science missions) in the last five years.

- (c) Not all countries are depending on India for space science related activities and satellite utilities. As the data from India's space science and exploration missions are made available to the global scientific community at no-cost (as practiced globally) and thus no foreign exchange has been earned. This practice is reciprocated for missions done by others.
- (d) Department of Space of Government of India provides training and capacity building in space science related technology including satellite services to neighbouring small countries and other space-aspiring countries of the world.
- (e) India and Bhutan collaborated on the development of INDIA-BHUTANSAT Satellite carrying into payloads NanoMX, an optical imaging payload developed by ISRO and APRS-Digipeater, jointly developed by DITT, Bhutan and ISRO. The said satellite has been successfully placed in orbit on 26.11.2022.

A communication satellite 'South Asia Satellite' was dedicated by India to South Asian Countries in 2017.

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