

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *154
ANSWERED ON 03/08/2023

CONSTRUCTION OF INDIGENOUS ICE-BREAKER

***154 Shri A. D. Singh:**

Will the Minister of **EARTH SCIENCES** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government is taking to expedite the construction of indigenous ice-breaker;
- (b) whether India intends to use its G20 Presidency to strive for resumption of scientific exchange with Russia in the Arctic; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE RAJYA SABHA IN REPLY TO PARTS (a)
TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.*154 REGARDING
'CONSTRUCTION OF INDIGENOUS ICE-BREAKER' FOR ANSWER ON 03/08/2023.**

- (a) Acquisition of Ice breaker (Polar Research Vessel) is towards undertaking Annual Indian Scientific Expeditions to Polar Regions as well as for carrying out research programmes in the Southern Ocean and Tropical seas. A revised cost estimate of the Polar research vessel was carried out through Indian Maritime University (IMU), a Central University under Ministry of Shipping. Based on this cost estimate, a draft Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) proposal for acquiring the vessel is prepared.
- (b) & (c) India has been engaging with all member states of the Arctic Council, including Russia, to enhance cooperation in matters related to the Arctic.
