

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. - 1627**  
ANSWERED ON 03/08/2023

**COLLABORATION WITH RUSSIA**

1627. SHRI A. D. SINGH

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

- (a) whether Government is contemplating a synergised approach with the Asian Observers at the Arctic Council to seek a more equitable and inclusive mechanism;
- (b) whether Government is considering enhanced collaboration with Russia in the Arctic; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**  
**THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES**  
**(SHRI KIREN RIJU)**

- (a) to (c) In the wake of geopolitical tensions due to Russia-Ukraine conflict, the meetings of Arctic Council have not been held regularly recently. Nevertheless, India has been engaging with all member states of the Arctic Council, including Russia, as well as the like-minded Asian observer states to enhance cooperation in matters related to the Arctic. Interaction and exchange of views have taken place at various levels. Further, India is a member of the Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFoPS) in which Asian countries discuss all matters related to polar studies.

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