

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYASABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 824
ANSWERED ON 27/07/2023**

DELAY IN SETTING UP ADVANCED MARINE BIOLOGY STATION

824. DR. SANTANU SEN:

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

- (a) whether Government has faced any delay in procuring high-power computing devices, constructing a National Centre for Seismology building and acquiring land to set up Advanced Marine Biology Station;
- (b) if so, the details and causes thereof;
- (c) whether such delays have resulted in any cost escalation or loss of resources for the Ministry; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any steps or actions to expedite or resolve such delays and prevent their recurrence?

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

- (a) & (b) Yes Sir. The scheduled planning has been delayed in procuring High-Performance Computing (HPC) devices, the construction of the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) building and acquiring land for Advanced Marine Biology Station (AMBS) owing to the following;

The Purchase order for HPC devices was delayed because the process of arranging funds for the procurement took time as the Ministry followed the route of Public Investment Board (PIB) for approval from the Ministry of Finance to earmark the required budget for the procurement of HPC devices. With regard to the NCS building, a suitable location has been identified and due approvals required for building construction are being obtained from statutory bodies. Similarly, there were some difficulties in acquiring the land at Goa for ABMS, as the identified site was in coastal regulation zone (CRZ) and an alternate site in Tamil Nadu is being identified for setting up of AMBS.

- (c) & (d) There is no cost escalation in case of HPC devices. However, there will be a cost escalation in the construction of NCS building, since this building also accommodates the National Geochronological Facility, HPC centre for National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), establishment of Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) which is presently operating at India Meteorological Department (IMD) headquarter. As such, there is no cost escalation for AMBS as the proposal has not yet started.

The robust and effective monitoring mechanism has been in place to ensure timely implementation of all these three activities.
