

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 131

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

ALIGNING ISRO'S ACTIVITIES WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

*131. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has a long-term vision for space policy;
- (b) if so, the details regarding ISRO aligning its activities with national priorities;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of ISRO's work with regulatory bodies to ensure responsible and sustainable use of space resources?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG &
PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE RAJYA SABHA IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 131 REGARDING 'ALIGNING ISRO'S ACTIVITIES WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES ASKED BY SHRI SUJEET KUMAR FOR ANSWER ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023.

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government has released the Indian Space Policy – 2023 that clearly delineates the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders viz. Department of Space, ISRO, NSIL and IN-SPACe. The Policy also provides a level playing field to Non-Government Entities [NGEs] in the space sector by enabling their participation across the entire value chain of space activities in an end-to-end manner.

(b) ISRO has been mandated to focus on R&D in advanced technology, proving newer systems and realization of space objects for meeting national prerogatives. In this regard, ISRO has been aligning its activities with national priorities by working on various space exploration programs, taking progressive steps towards indigenous human spaceflight program viz. Gaganyaan and supporting private sector activities, as detailed below:

- In August 2023, ISRO achieved a major feat as Chandrayaan-3 lander, *Vikram*, successfully soft-landed on the Moon. Subsequently, the rover, *Pragyan*, ramped down on the lunar surface.
- In September 2023, ISRO launched India's first solar observatory – the Aditya-L1 spacecraft.
- In October 2023, ISRO accomplished the first developmental flight of Test Vehicle (TV-D1) with the in-flight abort demonstration of the Crew Escape System (CES). TV-D1 Crew Module was safely recovered from sea with the help of Indian Navy and transported back to ISITE, Bengaluru.
- ISRO has been supporting private sector through sharing of facilities and technical know-how.
- Further, upcoming launches of ISRO such as the X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSAT), NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) and INSAT-3DS (a metrological satellite) are also aligned to national priorities.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) ISRO joined the Inter Agency Space Debris Co-ordination Committee in 1996 and has been playing an active role regarding Space Debris studies and Mitigation guidelines. India has also been playing a major role internationally on long term sustainability (LTS) of Outer Space as the Chair of LTS working group of United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. (UNCOPUOS).
