

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 661**  
ANSWERED ON 08/02/2024

**Challenges in constructing a research vessel for the Indian Ocean**

**661 DR. SANTANU SEN:**

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

- (a) whether Government has faced any difficulties or challenges in materializing tenders for constructing a research vessel for Indian Ocean and chartering a vessel for surveying and exploring Hydrothermal deposits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether such difficulties or challenges have affected or compromised the objectives or outcomes of the research or exploration activities undertaken by the Ministry in the Indian Ocean; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any steps or measures to overcome or address such difficulties or challenges?

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

- (a) – (d) National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa an autonomous body of the Ministry has recently concluded a national open tender and a suitable shipyard has been identified for the construction and delivery of the new research vessel. Similarly, the tendering process for chartering a vessel with Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV) for surveying and exploring hydrothermal deposits is completed.

Ministry maintains a fleet of six research vessels, which are being regularly used for providing necessary support to the ongoing activities in the open ocean and coastal areas.

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