

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 768

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2024

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS IN THE FIELD OF SPACE RESEARCH

768. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of ISRO's collaboration with other space agencies and countries;
- (b) whether Government plans to partner with foreign space research organisations for any upcoming missions, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any initiatives to encourage private investment and participation in space-related activities, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the vision of ISRO in terms of international collaboration contributing to the advancement of space exploration and technology?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES
& PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

- (a) Currently, space cooperative documents have been signed with 61 countries and five multilateral bodies. The major areas of cooperation are satellite remote sensing, satellite navigation, satellite communication, space science and planetary exploration and capacity building.
- (b) Yes. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is already working with the space agency of USA (NASA) for realising a joint satellite mission, named 'NISAR (NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)' which is in the advanced stages of realisation. ISRO is

working with CNES (French National Space Agency) for realising a joint satellite mission named 'TRISHNA (Thermal Infrared Imaging Satellite for High Resolution Natural Resource Assessment)', which is in the initial stages. ISRO and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) have carried out a feasibility study to realise a joint lunar polar exploration mission.

- (c) Yes. Indian Space Policy – 2023 has been released, which provides the freedom of innovation to the private sector to pursue end-to-end activities in the space domain. Further, the India National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has been functioning as a single-window agency to promote, authorise and encourage private sector participation in space sector.
- (d) ISRO pursues international collaboration with the objectives of enhancing the capacity of the Indian space programme for advancing programmatic priorities, augmenting space science and earth observation data base, widening ground station networks, bettering products and services through joint experiments and creating platforms for inflow of expertise.
