GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3813

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, APRIL 03, 2025

ESTABLISHMENT OF THIRD LAUNCH PAD

3813. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Third Launch Pad (TLP) will be established;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time by which it is likely to be established and the expenditure involved;

(c) whether the existing launch pads are unable to launch heavier launch vehicles with new propulsion systems; and

(d) if so, the manner in which TLP will cater to the heavier class of Next Generation Launch Vehicles?

ANSWER

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

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(a) &(b)

Yes, Sir. A Third Launch Pad (TLP) will be established at Sriharikota. The project has been approved by the Union Cabinet and financial sanction has been obtained for a total budget outlay of ₹3984.86 Crore. Establishment of the pad is envisaged to be completed within 4 years timeframe.

(c) & (d)

ISRO’s Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), which is under development is about 90 m tall with a maximum lift-off mass of approximately 1000 tonne. Existing launch pads at Sriharikota cannot launch this class of vehicles. The propellant servicing facilities and the Umbilical Tower of the existing launch pads are not designed to meet the requirements of the new propulsion system based on Liquid Methane.

In view of very large height & size, the next generation of launch vehicles are planned with horizontal integration and transport, which are then tilted onto the launch pad along with a Tiltable Umbilical Tower (TUT). Also, TLP incorporates necessary features in terms of foundation support & servicing requirements for future augmentation towards supporting the launches of India’s Crewed Lunar mission.

The first stage of NGLV is configured with a cluster of 9 engines. The hot testing of this stage is planned at the Launch Pad, thereby eliminating the need for establishing a huge separate facility for stage testing.

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