

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2127
ANSWERED ON 07/08/2025

PRV FOR ARCTIC RESEARCH

2127. SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA:

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

- (a) whether Government has approved the procurement of a Polar Research Vessel (PRV) to support India's polar expeditions and research activities;
- (b) if so, the timeline and estimated cost initially approved for the project;
- (c) the current status of the PRV procurement and the reasons for the prolonged delay in its acquisition;
- (d) whether the delay has affected India's research capabilities in the Antarctic and Arctic regions; and
- (e) the revised timeline, if any, for commissioning the vessel and the measures being taken to expedite the process?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) to (c) The Department of Expenditure (DoE) has recently provided in-principle approval for the revised cost estimate of ₹2329.40 Crores for acquisition of a Polar Research Vessel (PRV) to support India's polar expeditions and research activities. The timeline for acquisition of PRV is 2025-26 to 2029-30. The tender floated earlier was cancelled as the identified shipbuilder sought changes to the agreed contractual terms that were not acceptable. A revised cost estimate of the PRV was carried out through Indian Maritime University (IMU), a Central University under Ministry of Shipping. Thereafter, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) constituted a Revised Cost Committee (RCC) in 2024 to examine and assess the cost reasonableness of enhanced estimates and to recommend the Revised Cost Estimates. The RCC assessed and endorsed a total project cost of ₹2329.40 crore.
- (d) The expeditions to the Antarctica including logistical support and associated scientific research have been continuing uninterrupted through the use of annually chartered ice-class vessels.
- (e) As per the current proposal, the revised timeline is 2025-26 to 2029-30. The concept design and specifications are already completed. The Project Monitoring and Coordination Committee (PMCC) with experts from across the country provides guidance, ensuring alignment among technical, financial and administrative aspects for completion of the project on time.
