GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3331
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

SUPPORT TO STATES FOR THEIR INITIATIVES IN THE SPACE SECTOR

3331. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government is providing support to States for their initiatives in the space sector, including those proposed by State-run universities;
(b) if so, the funds earmarked for this support and the process of allocation;
(c) the types of space-related projects or initiatives that States or State-run universities can propose for funding;
(d) the criteria for approval and disbursement of funds for these projects;
(e) the expected outcomes of these initiatives on space development at the State level; and
(f) whether similar support is being provided for other developmental initiatives in this sector and if so, the details thereof?

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) Yes, Government of India through IN-SPACe, Department of Space, has sought willingness from state governments to establish space manufacturing clusters in

their respective states. IN-SPACe will establish Common Technical Facilities within the space manufacturing clusters which will have capital intensive infrastructure required for realising the space systems.

With respect to support for state run universities, the following schemes/initiatives have been introduced:

1. IN-SPACe has developed curriculum for B.Tech. Minor Degree in Space Technology. This curriculum is approved by AICTE for adoption by states or central universities. Presently, 08 colleges affiliated with states have adopted the space tech minor/major at various levels.

2. IN-SPACe in association with ASI and ISRO has introduced CANSAT and Model Rocketry India Student competitions from 2023 onwards. For the IN-SPACe CANSAT /Model Rocketry India Student Competition 2024-25 a total of 138 student teams from across various Indian states have applied. Eighty student teams from various states and central universities are participating in the finals planned from October 28-30, 2025 at Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The Government of India has earmarked Rs. 500 Crores, out of which up to Rs. 100 Crores per state can be provided for establishment of Common Technical Facilities. The States need to approach to IN-SPACe with the detailed project proposal.

(c) The type of space-related projects or initiative that states can propose can be either Upstream (spacecraft/space systems and launch vehicle systems) or Midstream (Ground Stations/Hub) or Downstream (space applications/user terminals). However, states can opt to work with IN-SPACe for establishing space manufacturing cluster, Centre of Excellence and adoption of Space Tech Education in the state universities.

(d) A Selection Committee, chaired by the Secretary, DoS, with representatives from IN-SPACe and the Office of Member (Finance), will evaluate the proposals received from the State Governments vis-à-vis the following pre-requisites:

i. The state shall identify a suitable dedicated land parcel of not less than 40 acres of area, easily accessible by rail/road/air and having proximity to major cities for establishment of the proposed space-manufacturing cluster.

ii. The states should be willing to establish civic infrastructure at the space manufacturing cluster as well as build necessary civil infrastructure required for housing the common technical facilities.

iii. The State Government will identify the Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs) to establish the manufacturing unit in the proposed cluster and may seek consultation from IN-SPACe in this regard, if needed.

iv. The State Government shall commit to maintain the technical facility post-transfer and demonstrate availability of technically trained manpower for operations.

IN-SPACe will identify, design, procure, install and commission the equipment at the respective common technical facilities. IN-SPACe will initially retain the ownership of the facilities and subsequently transfer to the State Government at a mutually agreed timeline.

After the ownership transfer, the State Government shall assume full responsibility and bear all the expenses for Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of the common technical facilities. The mode of operations and maintenance of the facilities shall be decided by the respective state governments.

(e) The expected outcomes of these initiatives on space development at the state level is given below:

i. The manufacturing clusters will enable a one-stop solution for space system development and production, ensuring quality, cost efficiency, and timely delivery, thus significantly boosting the space economy.

ii. Production of cost competitive space-grade components can strategically position India as a global supplier, thus increasing the exports from the country and enhancing its share in the global-space economy.

iii. The manufacturing cluster will aid in generation of employment for skilled and unskilled workforce in the respective states/regions.

(f) Yes, IN-SPACe has established a Technical Centre wherein, the Indian industry venturing in space sector can have access to design tools, space system assembly, integration and testing facilities including climatic chambers, thermovac chambers, vibration test facility for testing and validating the space hardware.

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