GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No- *207
ANSWERED ON – 18/12/2025

NEED FOR DEDICATED PRV IN ANTARCTICA

207.   SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government is aware that the absence of a dedicated Polar Research Vessel (PRV) continues to hinder India's independent research, logistics and year-round operations in the Antarctic region;

(b)   whether the shortage of specialised polar-trained personnel, along with the need for advanced and durable scientific equipments continues to restrict India's polar research potential; and

(c)   the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the commissioning of PRV, strengthen logistical self-reliance and enhance India's scientific capacity in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean regions?

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

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE RAJYA SABHA IN REPLY TO (a) to (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *207 REGARDING "NEED FOR DEDICATED PRV IN ANTARCTICA" TO BE ANSWERED ON DECEMBER 18, 2025

(a)   The Indian expeditions to the Antarctica including sustained year-round operations, logistical support and associated scientific research have been continuing uninterrupted through the use of annually chartered ice-class vessels. However, having a dedicated Polar Research Vessel will definitely ensure India's independent research, logistics, and year-round sustained operations in the Antarctic region and also in the Arctic.

(b)   No Sir.

(c)   The Department of Expenditure (DoE) has recently given the in-principle approval for acquiring one Polar Research Vessel (PRV) during five years (2025-2030). 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.

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