GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2783

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 02, 2017

CHANDRAYAAN - I

2783.   ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether India's first lunar probe, Chandrayaan-I which was considered lost, is still orbiting the moon and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether NASA scientists have found it by using a new ground based radar technique and if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether ISRO lost communication with Chandrayaan-I almost a year after it was launched and if so, the details thereof;

(d)   whether the new findings by NASA will help ISRO in establishing contact with Chandrayaan-I; and

(e)   if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) & (b)

Yes, Madam. India's first lunar mission, Chandrayaan-I is still orbiting the moon around 160 km orbit. Since the communication

with Chandrayaan-I was lost in August 2009, the spacecraft could not be used thereafter, though it is still orbiting the Moon.

On March 10, 2017, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) located an object orbiting the Moon around 160 km by virtue of a new technological application of interplanetary radar. Through the trajectory generation software, ISRO has confirmed that the object is Chandrayaan-I, which is still in orbit and its altitude varies between 150-270 km over every two years.

(c)   Yes, Madam. Chandrayaan-1 was launched on October 22, 2008 and inserted in to the lunar orbit on November 08, 2008. The scientific instruments on-board studied the Moon from different perspectives and generated excellent data for research. On August 29, 2009, the mission was concluded as the communication with the spacecraft was lost and it could no longer be used.

(d) & (e)

No, Madam. While the Chandrayaan-I is still orbiting the Moon, it is not possible to establish contact with it since the communication is lost.

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