

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 778
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017
ANTARCTIC TREATY**

778. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is a signatory to the Antarctic Treaty and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government has constituted a committee to draft a legislation to govern its activities in the Antarctic region and frame a clear policy on the consequences of its own activities;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the composition of the Committee; and**
- (d) the rationale behind the need for the law based Government's activities in the Antarctic region?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI. Y. S. CHOWDARY)**

- (a) Yes, Madam. India is signatory to the Antarctica Treaty and entered into force on 19th August 1983. Soon after accession to Antarctica Treaty, India obtained consultative status on 12th September 1983. Thereafter, India ratified Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctica Treaty on 14th January 1998. India is one of the 29 Consultative parties.**
- (b) Yes, Madam. A drafting committee was constituted to frame Indian Antarctic Legislation within the purview of Antarctic Treaty System.**
- (c) A drafting committee was constituted on 18th March 2014 with the following composition:**
 - i. Dr Rasik Ravindra (Former Director, NCAOR)**
 - ii. Prof. Bimal Patel (Director, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhi Nagar)**
 - iii. Dr V.N. Sanjeevan (Former Director of Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology -MoES, Cochin)**
 - iv. Prof. Sanjay Chaturvedi (Panjab University, Chandigarh)**
 - v. Dr Anoop Kumar Tiwari (Scientist, NCAOR and Convener of drafting Committee)**
- (d) India is actively involved in the activities of the Antarctic Treaty System. India is Member of Council of Managers of National Antarctic Program (COMNAP), Scientific Committee of Antarctic Research (SCAR) and Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and has two active research stations - Maitri and Bharati. It is imperative to formulate and enforce domestic legislation consistent with international legal framework. This will help build credibility and increase the status of the country in the international scenario. The enforcement of such laws will confer jurisdiction of the courts of India to deal with any disputes or crimes.**
