

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2343

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022

DELAY IN LAUNCH OF CHANDRAYAAN-3

2343. SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ISRO has carried out only four scientific missions so far;**
- (b) if so, the reasons for giving more priority to commercial launches over scientific missions;**
- (c) the reasons for the delay in launching the Chandrayaan-3 mission;**
- (d) whether the new space policy includes any specific provisions to promote scientific missions if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (e) whether the scientific component of ISRO is struggling with a limited budget, if so, whether the Government plans to prioritize scientific missions in the next budget; and**
- (f) if so, the details in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC
GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

- (a) Yes, Sir. As on date, ISRO has carried out four dedicated scientific missions in the form of Chandrayaan -1 & 2, Mars Orbiter Mission and ASTROSAT, catering to space science and planetary exploration.**
- (b) ISRO programs have been strongly rooted in the applications of space technology to the common problems of man and society. As such, priority has always been given to the development of space systems catering to applications of space technology viz. remote sensing, communication, navigation, etc. and associated launch vehicles that can put them in respective orbits. The commercial launches were taken up once the maturity of launch vehicles was established and as a response to the increasing demand for reliable, low-cost launch services.**
- (c) The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns resulted in delays due to the non-availability of components, manpower and facilities. The industries were also not functional. Furthermore, additional tests and indigenous technology development such as Laser Doppler Velocimeter, to increase the robustness have been recommended.**
- (d) The Department of Space is in the process of framing a comprehensive, overarching policy for the space sector, that shall address various aspects of activities in space domain, including space science and planetary exploration as well.**
- (e) No, Sir. The scientific missions of ISRO are adequately funded.**
- (f) Does not arise.**
