

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1456

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

TRAINING OF ASTRONAUTS

1456. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of initiatives taken by the Government to train astronauts in the country;**
- (b) the details of progress of the mission Gaganyaan;**
- (c) the details of effect of COVID-19 on the training of astronauts of mission Gaganyaan; and**
- (d) whether the Government is on track to achieve the target of sending Indians to space by 2022 and 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) Following initiatives have been taken by the Government for Indian leg of crew training:**
 - I. Expert team is constituted to define the training curriculum.**

II. Plan finalized for astronaut training building including requisite facilities with regard to Gaganyaan mission. Work order for the same has been released.

(b) The details of progress of Gaganyaan is as follows:

- I. The preliminary design of Gaganyaan system is completed.**
- II. Memorandum of understanding (MoUs) signed and in effect with;**
 - Indian Air Force for crew management activities for Indian human space flight programme;**
 - Seven (7) DRDO labs for design and development of human centric products; and**
 - Academic institutes for development of Microgravity payloads.**
- III. Major contracts signed and in effect.**
- IV. Crew screening and selection completed. The crew members are currently undergoing generic space flight training at Russia.**
- V. Human Centric Products: Preliminary design review of various human centric systems such as Space food and Potable water, Crew health monitoring system, Emergency survival kit, Crew medical kit, etc. completed.**
- VI. Hardware realization is in advanced stage for ground test and first unmanned mission.**
- VII. Qualification tests of liquid engines as part of human rating of launch vehicle commenced.**

- (c) As per COVID 19 protocols in Russia and health advisories issued by local authorities, the Astronaut training in Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center (GCTC), Russia was halted for a period from 28th March, 2020 to 11th May, 2020. As per the revised COVID 19 protocols the training of Indian astronauts has henceforth resumed since 12th May, 2020.**
- (d) First unmanned mission is planned in December 2021. Second unmanned flight is planned in 2022-23, followed by human spaceflight demonstration.**
