

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYASABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No- 29
ANSWERED ON – 20/07/2023

NODAL MINISTRY FOR ARCTIC AFFAIRS

29. SHRI A. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of **EARTH SCIENCES** be pleased to state:

- (a) the nodal Ministry in the Central Government on Arctic Affairs;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to improve inter-Ministerial coordination on Arctic Affairs including setting up a separate office of Empowered Arctic Policy Group;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the country has any plans to appoint a coordinator of Arctic Affairs; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a) The Ministry of Earth Sciences is the nodal Ministry in the Government of India for Arctic Affairs.
- (b) Yes Sir, the Government has taken various steps to improve inter-ministerial coordination on Arctic Affairs including constituting an Empowered Arctic Policy Group.
- (c) Inter-ministerial coordination on Arctic Affairs is being undertaken through the Empowered Arctic Policy Group (EAPG). The EAPG comprises of several stakeholder ministries which meet on a Half-yearly basis. The EAPG is headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences and back-end support is rendered by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).
- (d) The Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences in capacity of the Chairman, EAPG acts as coordinator for Arctic affairs.
- (e) Does not arise.
