

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. - 2427
ANSWERED ON – 24/03/2022

REVAMPING OF INSTITUTE OF EARTH SCIENCES

2427. DR. C.M. RAMESH:

Will the Minister of Earth Sciences be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to revamp the Institute of Earth Sciences on scientific line;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted about the highend facilities which are available for such institute, in other countries, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether at any point of time, team of Scientists has been sent to study such institute abroad to modernise the country's institute on the same lines and submitted revised financial ontology if any, in this regard, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

- (a) The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) was formerly the Department of Ocean Development (DOD), which was created in July 1981. The Government of India notified DOD as the Ministry of Ocean Development in February 2006.

In July 2006, the Ministry of Ocean Development was reorganized into the new Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) to deal with all the five components of the earth system viz; atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere and biosphere. This brought the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Delhi; the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune; and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Noida under the purview of MoES administration. The Government also approved the setting up of Earth Commission on the pattern of Space Commission (government department responsible for administration of the Indian space program) and Atomic Energy Commission (governing body of the Department of Atomic Energy).

The National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS), an autonomous R&D centre under the MoES administration was taken over in 2014 from Kerala state Govt. and tremendous efforts were made to establish advanced and sophisticated analytical laboratories to carry out solid earth research and other related domains of earth system science.

The scientific activities of NCESS are presently organized under the major scientific programme 'Geodynamics and Surface Processes (GSP)', which focusses on Geodynamical Evolution of Peninsular India, Complexities of Coastal Processes, Surface and Ground water Hydrology, Critical Zone Processes and Natural Hazards. With a view to reorient the research activities of the institute, to maximize utilization of available research facilities, and for the betterment of the scientific administration, the number of research groups of NCESS was increased to six, namely, Solid Earth Research, Crustal Dynamics, Marine Geoscience, Hydrology, Biogeochemistry and Atmospheric Science from earlier four major spheres of research, viz., Crustal Processes, Coastal Processes, Atmospheric Processes and Hydrological Processes.

There is no proposal to revamp the National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram at present.

- (b) As such no study has been conducted about the highend facilities which are available with NCESS, in other countries. NCESS continued to build its infrastructure and laboratory facilities during last few years. Many sophisticated analytical facilities for carrying out front-line research in the field of earth science studies were also procured.
- (c) Scientists are regularly in touch with different institutions abroad, collaborating in joint projects, attending international conferences and involving experts from abroad in Research Advisory Council, which allow necessary modernization in the advanced sophisticated laboratories of institute depending on the availability of funds. No specific team of Scientists has been sent to study such institute abroad to modernise NCESS on the same lines.
