

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. **1980**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014

**CLOSURE OF ISRO'S ACTIVITIES AT RESEARCH STATION AT ANTARCTICA**

**1980. SHRI MOTILAL VOHRA:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that ISRO's activities at Indian research station 'Bharti' functioning in Antarctica had been shut down in October, 2013;
- (b) if so, by whom the order to shut down activities was issued and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the effect of shut down on the research activities of ISRO; and
- (d) Government's response thereto?

**ANSWER**  
MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
(SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

- (a) Yes Sir. ISRO's activities at Bharti came to a temporary halt due to the shut-down of the electric power to the satellite ground station at Bharti between 07<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2013.
- (b) The order to shut-down the power to the satellite ground station was issued by the then Leader of the Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica at Bharti, against specific orders from the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, the nodal agency responsible for implementing the Indian Antarctic Programme. The reason was an apparent discord between the Expedition Leader and the team from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of ISRO which was managing the satellite station.
- (c) No damage was caused to any of the equipment and no major loss of data has been reported by NRSC/ISRO, due to the shut-down of electric power.
- (d) The Leader of the Expedition was suspended with effect from Friday, 11 October, 2013 and a new interim Leader was appointed. A Fact Finding Committee has also been constituted to enquire into the entire episode. The Committee is expected to commence its enquiries as soon all members of the winter-over team of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Indian Antarctic Expedition at Bharti return to India by February, 2014.

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