REPORT NO.
345

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

THREE HUNDRED FORTY FIFTH REPORT

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2021-2022) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DEMAND NO. 94)

(Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 8th March, 2021)
(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 8th March, 2021)

Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
March, 2021/ Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)

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C O N T E N T S

** To be appended*

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
(2020-21)
(Constituted w.e.f. 13th September, 2020)

1. Shri Jairam Ramesh – **Chairman**

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Anil Baluni
3. Shri R.S. Bharathi
4. Shrimati Vandana Chavan
5. Shri Hishey Lachungpa
6. Shri Parimal Nathwani
7. Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti
8. Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw
9. Shri Binoy Viswam
10. @Shrimati Seema Dwivedi

LOK SABHA

11. Shri Guharam Ajgalley
12. Shri Pradan Baruah
13. Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer
14. Shri Jashvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor
15. Shri Sudarshan Bhagat
16. Shri Anantkumar Hegde
17. Shri S. Jagathrakshakan
18. Shri Mohammed Azam Khan
19. Shrimati Jyotsna Charandas Mahant
20. Dr. Swami Sakshiji Maharaj
21. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
22. Dr. Ranjan Singh Rajkumar
23. Shri Kotha Prabhakar Reddy
24. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
25. Shrimati Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
26. Shri Mahesh Sahoo
27. Shri Francisco Sardinha
28. Shri Anurag Sharma
29. Shri Ram Shiromani
30. Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh
31. Dr. Ramapati Ram Tripathi

SECRETARIAT

Shri Pradeep Chaturvedi, Joint Secretary
Shri T. N. Pandey, Director
Shri Rakesh Anand, Additional Director
Shri Rajiv Saxena, Under Secretary
Shri Harish Kumar, Committee Officer

@ Nominated w.e.f. 23rd December, 2020, in lieu of Shri Ravi Prakash Verma who ceased to be a member of the Committee on expiry of his term in Rajya Sabha *on* 25th November, 2020.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on its behalf, present this Three Hundred Forty Fifth Report of the Committee. This Report deals with the detailed Demands for Grants (2021-2022) of the Department of Space (Demand No.94).

2. In the meeting of the Committee held on 22nd February, 2021, the Secretary and other officers of the Department of Space gave an overview of the various activities of the Department and the Members sought clarifications on various aspects of the performance of the Department to enable it to scrutinise the Demands for Grants.

3. The Committee expresses its thanks to the officers of the Department of Space for replying to the clarifications sought by the Members and placing before it the required material to enable it to scrutinise the Demands for Grants of the Department.

4. The Committee considered and adopted the draft report in its meeting held on the 4th March, 2021.

(JAIRAM RAMESH)
Chairman,
Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Rajya Sabha.

NEW DELHI;
March 4, 2021
Phalguna 13,1942 (Saka)

REPORT

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change considered the Demands for Grants 2021-22 of the Department of Space (DoS) in its meeting held on 22nd February, 2021.

2. BUDGETARY DETAILS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-21 AND ALLOCATION FOR 2021-22

2.1 The following table presents the overall budgetary details for the year 2020-21 and allocation made for the year 2021-22 in respect of the Department of Space:-

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Organisation/Programme Project/Centre/Unit	BE 2020-21	RE 2020-21	Actual Expenditure 2020-21 (till January, 2021)	Budget 2021-22
I	**Establishment Expenditure**				
1.	Secretariat - Economic Services	36.17	21.80	18.67	26.50
2.	Indian National Space Promotion & Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
3.	ISRO Headquarters	194.00	151.00	129.13	149.97
	Total - Establishment Expenditure (I)	**230.17**	**172.80**	**147.80**	**186.47**
II	**Central Sector Schemes**				
4.	Space Technology	9761.50	6540.85	5379.39	10250.16
5.	Space Applications	1810.00	1190.50	1000.93	1476.85
6.	Space Sciences	265.00	188.51	119.43	274.50
7.	INSAT Satellite Systems	750.50	771.88	616.68	329.61
	Total - Central Sector Schemes (II)	**12587.00**	**8691.74**	**7116.43**	**12331.12**
III	**Other Central Expenditure**				
a	**Autonomous Bodies**				
8.	Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST)	90.00	72.20	60.93	112.00
9.	Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL)	316.00	360.92	289.73	393.00
10.	North-Eastern Space Applications Centre (NE-SAC)	40.30	24.69	18.19	30.00
11.	National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL)	38.50	29.00	25.17	35.00
12.	Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)	172.00	146.25	125.39	158.50

Sl. No.	Name of Organisation/Programme Project/Centre/Unit	BE 2020-21	RE 2020-21	Actual Expenditure 2020-21 (till January, 2021)	Budget 2021-22
	Total-Autonomous Bodies (III.a)	**656.80**	**633.06**	**519.41**	**728.50**
b	**Others**				
13.	International Co-operation	5.50	2.40	1.43	3.00
14.	NewSpace India Limited	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
	Total - Other Central Expenditure (III)	**662.30**	**635.46**	**520.84**	**1431.50**
	Grand Total	**13479.47**	**9500.00**	**7785.07**	**13949.09**

2.2 The Committee notes that an amount of ₹13,949.09 crore has been allocated to the Department of Space for the year 2021-22 out of which ₹5,720.46 crore has been under the Revenue Budget and rest of ₹8,228.63 crore under the Capital Budget.

2.3 The Committee further notes that against the total budgetary allocation of ₹13,479.47 crore in BE 2020-21, an amount of ₹9,500 crore only was allocated to the Department at RE stage, thus registering a cut of ₹3,979.47 crore in the total budgetary allocation. Upto January, 2021, the Department has managed to spend ₹7785.07 crore against the budgetary allocation of ₹9500 crore in RE 2020-21 which is almost 82% utilisation of the allocated funds.

2.4 The Committee sought to know about the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the budgetary allocations of the Department during the year 2021-22. The Department, in response, submitted that in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Finance had prescribed a series of guidelines to contain the expenditure of Department of Space to 15% per quarter (with 5% monthly ceiling) for the first three quarters. Moreover, there were disruptions in the supply chain induced by the pandemic. Activities related to fabrication, assembly, integration and testing were also impaired due to strict social distancing norms. As a result, there were no launches conducted during the first two quarters of the 2020-21. It was further informed that due to these factors and also due to stringent expenditure control measures employed by the Department, a budgetary projection of

₹9,851.22 crore was made for RE 2020-21 against which an amount of ₹9,500 crore was allocated in RE 2020-21.

2.5 Secretary, Department of Space, during the meeting of the Committee held on 22nd February, 2021 submitted that the on-going programmes of the Department are adequately funded. It was submitted that under the priority programmes of the Department, such as Gaganyaan and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), an amount of ₹1,900 crore and ₹700 crore respectively have been allocated which is adequate, and, if required, the Department would seek additional funds at RE/supplementary stage.

2.6 Responding to the query of the Committee on the budgetary allocation and utilisation thereof during the years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, the Department submitted the following information to the Committee:-

(₹ in crore)

Financial Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
BE	10783.42	12473.16	13479.47
RE	11200	13139.26	9500
Actuals	11192.66	13033.29	7785.07 (upto January, 2021)
Utilisation (% of RE)	**99.93**	**99.20**	**81.94**

2.7 The Committee is happy to note the overall financial performance of the Department of Space during the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 which has been almost to the tune of 100% utilisation of the total funds made available to the Department. During the year 2020-21, the Department has spent nearly 82% of the total allocation upto January, 2021. The Department, however, has assured the Committee that it has drawn up a plan to ensure that the funds allocated in RE 2020-21 are fully utilised. The Committee accepts the view of the Department of Space that the year 2020-21, being one of the most challenging years in recent times in the wake of COVID 19 pandemic, forced the Government to prioritise its limited resources to ensure that the very essential activities/schemes/projects of the Department continue without hindrance.

2.8 The Committee further finds that the worst hit area in terms of reduction in the budgetary allocation during the year 2020-21 has been the 'Central Sector

Schemes/Projects' where the budgetary allocation of ₹12,587 crore in BE 2020-21 was significantly decreased to ₹8,691.74 crore registering a reduction of ₹3,895.26 crore in the funds.

2.9 The Committee also notes that a total of ₹13,949.09 crore has been allocated to the Department in BE 2021-22, and, as per the Monthly Expenditure Plan (MEP) under Cash Management System for the year 2021-22, the Department intends to spend 29%, 26%, 23% and 22% of the total budgetary allocation in 1st Quarter, 2nd Quarter, 3rd Quarter and 4th Quarter respectively. The Committee hopes that the Department will make earnest efforts to adhere to the roadmap prepared in the matter and regular monitoring exercises will be undertaken to ensure optimum utilisation of budget allocated.

2.10 The Committee further opines that the Department should prepare a blueprint highlighting the avenues that can be explored for revenue generation during the next 5 years which can help fund the more ambitious programmes of the Department.

BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES/PROJECTS

3. SPACE TECHNOLOGY

3.1 The Committee desired to know about the financial performance of the Department under its 'Space Technology' Scheme during the years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 along with the budgetary allocation made in BE 2021-22. In response, the Department provided the following information:-

(₹ in crore)

Financial Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
BE	6576.02	8407.59	9761.50	10250.16
RE	6992.60	8991.13	6540.85	-
Actuals	6382.82	8873.29	5379.39 (upto January, 2021)	-

3.2 It is clear from the data that the Department under this Scheme has been able to utilise the allocated funds to the tune of about 91% and 99% during the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. The Committee notes that against the

RE 2020-21 allocation of ₹6,540.85 crore, the Department has spent ₹5,379.39 crore upto January 2021, which is about 82% utilisation. The Committee hopes that the Department will utilise the unspent funds during the remaining part of the Financial Year 2020-21 under this Scheme.

3.3 The Committee, on perusal of the information furnished by the Department pertaining to the components under the Scheme *vis-à-vis* utilisation of the budgetary support, observes that the Department, upto December, 2020, couldnot spend 60% of the allocated funds under the various components such as (i) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle – Continuation Project (PSLV), (ii) GSLV Continuation Programme (Phase – 4), (iii) Launch pad for SSLV, (iv) Network for Space Object Tracking & Analysis (NETRA), (v) Geo-Imaging Satellite (GISAT), (vi) Resourcesat – 3S & 3SA, (vii) Resourcesat – 3 & 3A, (viii) Development of Space Material & Components and (ix) Capacity Building Programme (CBP). The Committee urges the Department to review its financial performance under these components and take necessary remedial action to ensure that the budgetary support being made available in these components is fully utilised and the intended outcomes are achieved.

3.4 The Committee further notes that an amount of ₹10,250.16 crore has been allocated to the Department under 'Space Technology' in BE 2021-22. The Committee expects that the physical activities identified under the Scheme for the year 2021-22 will be carried out successfully. The Committee recommends that additional funds should be sought by the Department at RE stage so that the targets envisaged, including the launch of the Chandrayaan-III announced by the Finance Minister in the budget speech, during the year 2021-22 are achieved in totality. The Committee emphasises that the prestigious and important Gaganyaan mission and all its various components must not suffer due to any budgetary constraints whatsoever.

4. SPACE APPLICATIONS

4.1 The Committee sough to know about the financial performance of the Department under the 'Space Application' Scheme during the years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 along with the budgetary allocation made in BE 2021-22. In response, the Department has provided the following information:-

(₹ in crore)

Financial Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
BE	1746.25	1885.45	1810.00	1476.85
RE	1595.19	1862.77	1190.50	-
Actuals	1811.46	1794.98	1000.93 (upto January, 2021)	-

4.2 The Committee appreciates the Department for utilising, in totality, the budgetary support being made available for the 'Space Application' Scheme. The Committee, however, expresses concern over the financial performance of the Department during the year 2020-21 (upto January, 2021) under the components of (i) National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) and (ii) Disaster Management Support (DMS) where the Department, till January, 2021, could spend only 58.12% and 22.11% respectively. Even though the amounts under these components are not substantial, these are important programmes. The Committee urges the Department to take appropriate corrective measures to ensure that the funds are fully utilised.

4.3 The Committee observed that under the DMS Programme, the Department uses its space-based data and information. The Committee appreciates the role of ISRO, as apprised by the Secretary, DoS, for providing crucial support to various agencies of the government after the recent Uttarakhand disaster. In response to the Committee's concerns on establishing early warning systems for such events, the ISRO has acknowledged the challenges behind such an exercise and proposed certain measures. The Committee, however, stresses the need for a scientific mechanism to be developed to predict precisely, to the maximum extent possible, the occurrence

of landslides and rockslides, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF), extreme weather based events like cloudbursts and flash floods, etc. as has been done in the case of cyclones and floods. The Committee, therefore, urges that all the scientific ministries and affiliated institutions of the Central Government should come together (with ISRO playing a critical role), and make sincere efforts in this direction so that the loss of life and property caused by natural disasters can be minimised.

4.4 The Committee also notes that at the behest of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, geospatial database for Urban Master Plan (AMRUT) has been generated by using the space application technology of the Department of Space for 239 cities to enable the Urban Local Bodies for preparation of the Master Plan. The Committee appreciates the achievements of the Department under its 'Space Application Scheme' such as automated detection of national annual forest loss locations, monitoring of Biodiversity, GeoMGNREGA, ground water quality, point database generation, etc. However, the Committee urges ISRO to improve their outreach and ensure that such critical data and applications reaches all stakeholders, including elected representatives, local bodies, and civil society.

4.5 The Committee appreciates the Department for generating an income of ₹11 crore for the provision of remote sensing services, as mentioned in the Outcome Budget. The Committee is of the considered view that India needs more remote sensing satellites for defence and commercial applications. Therefore, it notes with some concern the reduction in Demands for Grants from ₹1810 crore in FY 2020-21 (BE) to ₹1,476 crore in FY 2021-22 (BE) with a decrease in capital outlay. Hence, the Committee urges the Department to seek additional funds at RE stage.

5. SPACE SCIENCES

5.1 In order to learn about the financial performance of the Department under the 'Space Sciences' Scheme, the Committee sought data for the years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 along with the budgetary allocation made in BE 2021-22. In response, the Department has provided the following information:-

(₹ in crore)

Financial Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
BE	230.10	285.80	265.00	274.50
RE	193.90	281.88	188.51	-
Actuals	221.64	272.45	119.43 (upto January, 2021)	-

5.2 The Committee notes the under utilisation of funds during the year 2021-22 under the Space Science Scheme of the Department. Against the allocation of ₹188.51 crore in RE 2020-21, the Department spent only ₹119.43 crore till January, 2021 around 63% utilisation of the allocated funds. The Committee would like to highlight the performance of the Department against the components namely, (i) Sensor Payload Development/Planetary Science Programme, (ii) Sponsored Research (RESPOND), (iii) Space Science Promotion, (iv) Aditya – L1, and (v) Chandrayan – 1&2 where the Department has utilised less than 50% of the allocated funds (upto December, 2020). The Committee hopes the Department will make corrective measures and ensure that the budgetary allocation is fully utilised during the remaining period of the Financial Year 2020-21.

6. INSAT SATELLITE SYSTEMS

6.1 The Committee desired to know about the financial performance of the Department under the 'INSAT Satellite Systems' Scheme during the years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 along with the budgetary allocation made in BE 2021-22. In its written response, the Department has informed the following:-

(₹ in crore)

Financial Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
BE	411.60	884.42	750.50	329.81
RE	1330.20	1008.56	771.88	-
Actuals	1592.52	1085.30	616.68 (upto January, 2021)	-

6.2 The Committee is satisfied with the overall financial performance of the Department under 'INSAT Satellite Systems' Scheme. The Committee, however, notes the cases of under utilisation under the heads (i) INSAT – 3 Satellites, (ii) GSAT – 29 Satellites, (iii) GSAT30, 31 Launch Satellites and (iv) India Data Relay Satellite Series (IDRSS) where the Department has to ensure that the allocated funds are fully utilised. Further, the Committee observes that the allocation has been reduced from ₹750.50 crore in FY 2020-21 (BE) to ₹329.61 crore in FY 2021-22 (BE). With the GSLV Mk-III becoming available for launch, the Committee is of the opinion that communication systems need to be priortised for commercial and defence needs. Therefore, the Committee recommends the Department to request additional funds at the RE stage so as to clear the backlog of satellites to be launched, launch more satellites for defence purposes, and ensure some redundancy in communications systems.

7. AUTONOMOUS BODIES

7.1 The Committee notes that there are five autonomous bodies under the administrative control of the Department namely, (i) Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST); (ii) Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL); (iii) North-Eastern Space Applications Centre (NE-SAC); (iv) National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL); and (v) Physical Research Laboratory (PRL).

7.2 The Committee requested the Department to furnish the information about the financial performance of the 'Autonomous Bodies' under the control of the Department during the year 2019-20 and 2020-21 along with the budgetary allocation

made in BE 2021-22. In its written response, the Department has informed the following:-

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Autonomous Bodies	2019-20			2020-21			2021-22
		BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals (upto January, 2021)	BE
1	Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST)	80.00	90.00	90.25	90.00	72.20	60.93 **(84.39%)**	112.00
2	Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL)	300.00	350.00	360.00	316.00	360.92	289.73 **(80.27%)**	393.00
3	North-Eastern Space Applications Centre (NE-SAC)	40.00	34.00	37.78	40.30	24.69	18.19 **(73.67%)**	30.00
4	National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL)	50.00	51.10	51.10	38.50	29.00	25.17 **(86.79%)**	35.00
5	Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)	145.00	180.00	185.70	172.00	146.25	125.39 **(85.73%)**	158.50
Total		**615.00**	**705.10**	**724.83**	**656.80**	**633.06**	**519.41 (82.04%)**	**728.50**

7.3 The Committee finds the overall financial performance of the Autonomous Bodies of the Department to be satisfactory. The Committee notes that the Department could utilise ₹519.41 crore upto January, 2021 against the allocation of RE 2020-21 amounting to ₹633.06 crore, which is about 82% utilisation of the allocated funds.

8. SPACE ECOSYSTEM vis-à-*vis* PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR

8.1 The Committee, in order to take stock of the efforts being made by the Department of Space to make optimum utilisation of the existing large base of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and progress achieved thereon, sought the details of the action taken by the Department during the last three years in this direction. In its written reply, the Department submitted a host of activities being undertaken by the Department in the matter. On the issue of the impact of the efforts made by the Department, it was submitted that the continuous efforts in promoting MSMEs has resulted in substantial reduction in import content in our space projects. The efforts for the growth of Indian industries have led to its growth with more than 500 MSMEs, PSUs and large private industries contributing significantly to the

Indian space programme. The involvement of industries in space activities has created jobs for around 45,000 people in the country. It was also submitted that the recent Space sector reforms have enabled the private industries to take up end-to-end space activities including building and launching satellites, launch vehicles, establishment and operation of ground infrastructure, space based services and applications.

8.2 The Department further informed the Committee that considering the ever increasing demand for space based services, Government of India has created the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe) with a mandate to promote, handhold and encourage private entities including SMEs, startups, academia, etc. It was further submitted that till date, Department of Space has been approached by more than 26 entities involved in space activities for technical guidance/facility support. With this mechanism in place, it is expected that more and more private entities will venture into various segments of space activities resulting into development of cutting edge technologies, advanced space systems, newer services along with employment & revenue generation.

8.3 The Committee acknowledges and appreciates the efforts being made by the Department of Space to promote the private sector participation in the space ecosystem of the country. The Committee feels that with strategic policy interventions, the Department can further work towards tapping the immense potential of the MSMEs/private sector working in the space sector. The Committee, therefore, welcomes the creation of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Center (IN-SPACe). The Committee hopes that the purpose for which IN-SPACe has been created, will be achieved and India's share in the space industry globally will double in the next five years with the help of private sector participation.

8.4 The Committee, however, is of the view that creating a successful public private partnership to develop technology for enhanced throughput requirements of satellites and launch vehicles in the country is a challenging

task, which depends on the convergence of our research in both the academia and industry. The Committee is of the considered view that the efforts of the Department for commercialising the space sector further needs to be supplemented by a sound legal and policy framework. The Committee notes that the Department is seized with the task of reforming space sector and various policies are being introduced for the purpose. The Committee urges the Department to consult all stakeholders in this process and introduce the Space Activities Bill soon, for the effective promotion and regulation of private players in the space sector.

8.5 The Committee appreciates that the Department has initiated addressing the immediate requirements from private entities for proceeding with the space activities. The Committee, however, feels that the Department should examine all the pros and cons related with this issue threadbare instead of rushing through the process.

8.6 The Committee would also like to highlight the importance and need of developing indigenous state-of-the-art technologies, devices and services in order to cater to the emerging needs of the society. Indigenously developed technologies, service, devices, etc. will help the Department to reduce its import bill considerably apart from reducing the dependability on imports. It is learnt that approximately 60-70% of the total requirement of electronic components are imported. It is, therefore, of great significance and importance to have electronic components produced indigenously. It would also generate employment locally. The Committee hopes that opening up the space sector for private entities will further help in achieving indigenisation of these technologies, devices and services.

8.7 The Committee further notes that the Department intends to provide access to its facilities to private entities to support their space activities. In this regard, the Committee, while appreciating the intent of the Department of opening up its door to private players, would also like to highlight the security

issues of the ISRO installations. A comprehensive security mechanism should be put in place by the Department to ensure the security of all such ISRO installations.

9. NEWSPACE INDIA LIMITED (NSIL)

9.1 The Committee notes that NSIL got incorporated in March 2019 as a wholly owned Government of India Undertaking/Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), under the administrative control of the Department. The Committee was informed that the Government has enhanced the role and scope of NSIL to encompass responsibilities in the primary areas and widen its scope in June, 2020. The revised mandate broadly covers (i) owning satellites for earth observation and communication applications; (ii) providing space based earth observation and communication service; (iii) building satellites and launching them as per demand; (iv) building launching vehicles through Indian industry and launch as per requirements; (v) providing launch services; and (vi) technology transfer to Indian industry. NSIL will act as the aggregator of user requirements and obtain commitments.

9.2 The Committee sought to know whether NSIL will replace ISRO or whether there will be any change in the mandate of ISRO. In response, the Department informed the Committee that through the projects of Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan, national security and advanced technology will remain with ISRO only.

9.3 The Committee notes the activities being carried out by NSIL and that, since its existence in 2019, NSIL has launched 31 customer satellites. Apart from Amazonia-1 mission of Brazil, fourteen satellites from USA are planned for launch as co-passengers on-board PSLV-C51. In future, satellites from other countries *viz*. Singapore, USA and Europe are also in the pipeline for utilising the services of ISRO launch vehicles through NSIL, on a commercial basis. The Committee is hopeful that NSIL will complete all its endeavours with complete success.

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