

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.610
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2021

LASER INTERFEROMETER GRAVITATION - WAVE OBSERVATORY (LIGO)

610. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of land acquired by the Government for the Laser Interferometer Gravitation-Wave Observatory (LIGO) along with the funds committed by the Government for the research and development under the same;
- (b) the details of the infrastructure likely to be setup to host the ambitious LIGO project;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed any plan to develop the area around the mega-science project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of financial outlay for the same;
- (e) whether there is any delay in the project completion; and
- (f) if so, the reason therefor along with the estimated date of completion?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH):

- (a) Land around 174 Hectares in an "L" shaped configuration (with each arm of the L being 4 km in length) at Aundha, in Hingoli District of Maharashtra has been acquired for the LIGO-India Project. The Government has committed Rs. 79.85 crore for the pre-investment activities of LIGO-India Project.
- (b) The Project requires identification, acquisition and development of a seismically low noise site, followed by construction of the civil facility required for housing the 4 km arm length Interferometer detector suitably designed to address all the vibration sources such as pumps, fans, HVAC etc. The scope of work also involves fabrication and installation of large vacuum chambers, liquid nitrogen cryo-pumps etc., with the required quality control and contamination control to achieve ultra-high vacuum suitable for installation of the detector.
- (c)&(d) No, Sir.
- (e)&(f) There is no delay in the project completion. The pre-investment activities have been completed and a suitable site for the project has been acquired. The estimated duration for the completion of the project is 7 years from the date of sanction.