

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4760  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25/08/2010**

**TEST FLIGHT OF SOLAR POWER PLANE**

**4760. SHRI SIVASAMI C.:**

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a solar powered plane was experimented and its test flight took off from Switzerland;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken for promotion and application of such technology in the country?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
(PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)**

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार); पृथ्वी विज्ञान राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार);  
प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय में राज्य मंत्री; कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत तथा पेंशन राज्य मंत्री;  
तथा संसदीय कार्य राज्य मंत्री  
(पृथ्वीराज चव्हाण)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Various News Agencies and website of Project Solar Impulse ([www.solarimpulse.com](http://www.solarimpulse.com)) have reported that a Prototype Solar Plane HB-SIA developed by Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne and sponsored by a conglomerate of industries flew 26 hours 9 minutes on 7-8 July, 2010 to complete the first night flight propelled only by Solar Energy stored during the day.

(c) The vision of the Solar Plane experiment is to promote renewable energy technologies by demonstrating efficiency of solar energy technology systems and their capability of offering innovative aeronautical solution for addressing unachieved challenge of solar powered night flight. The Government is conscious of need to promote renewable energy applications and research in the area of harnessing solar energy is being pursued vigourously.

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