

(a) whether any study has been made to ascertain the hazards posed by the sand dunes at Munambam, Kerala; and

(b) measures being adopted to overcome these hazards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Fuel from Uranium Sand

4645. SHRI H.B. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps for processing fuel from uranium sand during the last few years for the purpose of using it for development of atomic energy;

(b) if so, the estimated deposits of uranium sand in our country; and

(c) the steps taken for its development to make the country self-sufficient in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) In addition to the uranium which occurs in many parts of the country in different rock formulations such as the Singhbhum Thrust Belt Area of the Bihar State, Uranium and Thorium are also available as by-product when rare earths is extracted from monazite which is found in the beach placers along the coastal tracts of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

(b) The estimated reserves of uranium in different grades of ore is 73,000 M. Tonnes and the estimated reserves of monazite are approximately 3,00,000 tonnes which contain about 0.25% of Uranium Oxide.

(c) The country is already self-sufficient in natural uranium fuel. Steps to develop new uranium mines and new plans to process monazite are under consideration.

National Parks and Games Sanctuaries in Maharashtra

4646. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the targets fixed by Union Government for the better performance as well as opening of National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in the country during the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of National Parks and game sanctuaries in the State of Maharashtra; and

(c) whether Union Government and the State Government have evolved any mechanism to monitor the results of the protection efforts in the National Parks and game sanctuaries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) No such target was fixed by the Union Government.

(b) Maharashtra Government has established four national parks and eleven wild-life sanctuaries.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Denudation of Forests in West Bengal

4647. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Government of West Bengal have submitted a Scheme to Union Government to check large scale denudation of Forests in Ayodhya Hill;

(b) whether that scheme will help about two thousand landless families; and

(c) if so, the steps Union Government have taken in this regard ?