

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1786**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2023

**Effects of Uranium Mining**

1786. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Uranium Corporation of India Limited conducted field surveys to look into the problems faced by the people in Tummalapalle of Kadapa district due to Uranium mining and if so, the details of the number of people who were surveyed;
- (b) whether health concerns faced by the individuals due to groundwater contamination, air pollution and other such issues were surveyed;
- (c) if so, the details of youth facing health issues due to such mining, gender-wise;
- (d) whether the PSU pays pensions to the villagers past the age of sixty who were rehabilitated due to mining;
- (e) if so, the details of the pension that has been provided and the total number of people above the age of sixty who have been rehabilitated, State- wise; and
- (f) whether State Government has concurred with the mining of uranium in Tummalapalle district, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

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- (a) to (c) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, is a mining company, engaged in mining and processing of Uranium ore in the country for the last six decades. The technology adopted in UCIL is mechanized and eco-friendly which are in compliance with the international standards. UCIL operations are

being regularly monitored by the Health Physics Unit/Environmental Survey Laboratory established by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). UCIL is committed to maintain the various radiological parameters below the threshold limit values/standards recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and adopted by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). UCIL's operations are under stringent surveillance of various regulatory authorities such as Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS), State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) etc. In order to address various allegations by the surrounding local villagers and NGOs against UCIL operations at Tummalapalle, different scientific investigations have been conducted in and around the area at the behest of Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board. The details of which are as follows:

1. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras** conducted hydrological investigations to establish the source of ground water contamination in the neighbouring villages surrounding the tailing pond of M/s. UCIL. The report concludes that there is no discernible dissolved uranium plume emanating from the tailing pond of UCIL. However, the presence of high concentration of uranium in groundwater around the upstream areas is solely due to natural uranium deposits in the area which has degraded the water quality and hence the tailing pond is not the probable cause of groundwater contamination in the nearby wells.
2. **Sri Venkateshwara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS), Tirupati** studied the alleged health issues in the areas and concluded that the health issues are not attributable to UCIL's operation.
3. **National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB), Indian Council of Agricultural Research** conducted studies on the alleged low yield / stunted growth of Agriculture crop in the surrounding villages, tailings pond of M/s. UCIL and their report concludes that uranium

operations at Tummalapalle do not attribute to contamination of agricultural lands in the area.

4. **Isotope and Radiation Application Division (IRAD), BARC** conducted an isotope hydrological study at Tummalapalle to identify the source of uranium contamination in ground waters. The report concludes that the presence of high uranium observed in some wells were geogenic in nature and not derived from the tailing pond or decant pond.

5. **M/s. Mecon, A Government of India Enterprise** conducted Hydrogeological Investigations for tailings pond area at Tummalapalle to study the alleged ground water contamination. The report concludes that the elevated uranium concentrations in water is observed when the bore wells intersect the ore body. Based on the above scientific investigations, it is well established that UCIL operations at Tummalapalle have not caused any health issues, groundwater/agricultural land contamination in and around the area. None the less, due to the requests from the local public, specialists' doctors like Dermatologist and Gynecologist have been engaged by the company and are regularly visiting all the surrounding villages under the Rural Medical Camps.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) Yes Sir. All the statutory clearances like Mining Lease from Department of Mines & Geology, Consent for operation (CFO) & Consent for Establishment (CFE) from Pollution Control Board for Tummalapalle project have been obtained from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

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