

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2066
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
TAPPING OF THORIUM
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have drawn up a programme for tapping of Thorium as an alternative to Uranium;
- (b) if so, whether the technologies to tap the mineral have been developed in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the amount spent on the development of such technologies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICAL PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIS.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The Government have drawn up a program for tapping of Thorium as an alternative to Uranium considering the abundance of Thorium in the country and relatively meagre indigenous resources of Uranium. The long term nuclear power programme, of India proposed by our scientists at the beginning of the Indian nuclear programme, envisages progressive deployment of Thorium based nuclear fuels for nuclear power generation.

The advanced heavy water reactor currently under development in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre will generate most of the power from Thorium.

(d): An amount of Rs.22.43 crores has been spent so far, on development of the above technologies. An amount of Rs.450.00 crores is proposed to be spent for the above purpose in the X plan.