

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2862
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
THORIUM BASED NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
Bhagora Shri Mahavir

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up any thorium-based Nuclear Power Plant in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof. State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

a) Yes,Sir.

b) The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) propose to construct a 300 MWe Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) designed to generate most of its power from Thorium based fuel, to serve as a demonstrator for thorium related technologies.However,decision on location of this proposed plant has not been taken.

c) Utilisation of the large Thorium resources available in the country has been a component of DAE's R&D Programme since inception.These efforts have led to the design and development of AHWR, which will serve as a platform for large scale demonstration of the developed technologies. Several large experimental facilities have helped in establishing the acceptability of the new advanced features provided in this reactor to address the requirements internationally being stipulated for next generation Nuclear Power Plants.The initiation of work pertaining to construction of this reactor is planned under the XI Five Year Plan.