

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1689

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010

PRODUCTION OF URANIUM

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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of uranium mining by the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) in Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya;
- (b) the estimated uranium reserves in these areas separately; and
- (c) the constraints, if any, in starting, uranium mining in these areas and the steps taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of Department of Atomic Energy is constructing a new mine and processing plant at Tummalapalle in Kadappa District of Andhra Pradesh (A P). It is also proposed to set up mines and processing plant at Lambapur-Peddagattu in the Nalgonda District of A P and a mine and mill at Kylleng Pyndengsohiong Mawthabah in the West Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya. Various pre-project activities are being carried out and project will commence only after receipt of all statutory clearances from State and Central Governments.

(b) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has so far established uranium reserves amounts to 66,205 tonnes in Andhra Pradesh and 17,252 tonnes in Meghalaya.

(c) In Meghalaya the major constraint for the Project has been environment, economic and health concerns perceived by some NGOs and local people. The DAE and UCIL have for the last five years been regularly conducting Awareness Programme to clear the misconceptions regarding uranium mining in West Khasi Hills of Meghalaya and also addressing the economic and environmental concerns. Visits to the operating units of UCIL in Jaduguda were also arranged to provide assurance on safety and best environment management practices adopted by UCIL.