

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4112

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010

EXPLORATION OF URANIUM AND PLUTONIUM

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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government through its agencies has successfully identified new reserves of Plutonium and Uranium in various parts of the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantity of these metals explored during the above period,location-wise and agency-wise; and

(c) the steps initiated by the Government to further refine these metals for peaceful use in the nuclear plants?

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)&(b) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Hyderabad, a constituent Unit of the Department of Atomic Energy, carried out survey and exploration for uranium in India and has established 1,47,898 tonnes of uranium deposits as on 31.05.2010. During the last three years the uranium resources established by AMD are as follows.

(FIGURES IN TONNES)

AREA	STATE	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
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ROHIL	RAJASTHAN	547	220	795
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KOPPUNURU	ANDHRA PRADESH	1,228	-	293
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PEDDAGATTU	ANDHRA PRADESH	1,407	-	854
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TUMMALAPALLE	ANDHRA PRADESH	1,690	12,007	14,131
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CHITRIAL	ANDHRA PRADESH	-	-	440
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GOGI	KARNATAKA	-	449	-
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LOSTOIN	MEGHALAYA	-	12	7
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Total:		4,872	12,688	16,520
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Plutonium does not occur in nature. Plutonium is produced by nuclear transmutation in nuclear reactors. Thus, resources of plutonium can not be established by survey and exploration.

(c) At Tummalapalle, Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh, Uranium mine is under construction by the Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy. In Gogi, Gulbarga District, Karnataka, exploratory mining is in progress to delineate the ore body configuration and for recovery of bulk samples for development of flow sheet for recovery of Uranium. At Peddagattu-Lambapur, Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh; Rohil, Sikar District, Rajasthan and Wahkyn, West Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya, exploratory mining is under consideration.