

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2444

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN NUCLEAR POWER SECTOR

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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided not to allow private sector participation in the atomic energy sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether some private sector companies have shown interest in this field;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to acquire uranium assets abroad by forging joint venture with other companies; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

(a) & (b) The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 gives power to Central Government to produce, develop, use and dispose of atomic energy either by itself or through any authority or corporation established by it or a Government company in which not less than 51% of the paid up share capital is held by the Central Government. At present Indian private sector can participate in nuclear power generation projects as a minority partner. For the present, participation of Indian private sector in nuclear power generation projects will continue to be as per the existing provisions of Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

(c) & (d) Some organizations in the private sector have, at various fora indicated their interest in nuclear power generation. At present companies in Private sector in India are participating in a major way in setting up nuclear power plants through supply of components, equipment and works contracts.

(e) & (f) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd and Uranium Corporation of India Ltd- Public Sector Undertakings of Department of Atomic Energy are considering to form joint venture companies to explore the possibility of acquiring the uranium assets abroad.