

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ATOMIC ENERGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2199

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011

URANIUM MINING BY PRIVATE SECTOR

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Kumar Shri P.

**Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to open up domestic uranium exploration and mining in line with New Exploration Licensing Policy to increase domestic output as well as to reduce dependence on import of uranium;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to allow private sector to explore and mine uranium in the country and encourage to go overseas in a big way in acquiring uranium assets for energy security of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PMO (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above

(c)&(d) At present Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is responsible for exploration of uranium bearing minerals. However, they engage private sector for drilling and Heliborne Electro Magnetic Survey for exploration activities. Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under DAE, is the only agency in the country which is engaged in mining of uranium bearing minerals. A proposal to form a joint venture between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), another PSU under DAE, and UCIL (as a subsidiary of NPCIL) for acquiring uranium assets abroad will be useful for meeting India's long term nuclear fuel requirement.