

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2296

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011

SHORTAGE OF FUEL FOR ATOMIC PLANTS

Bavalia Shri Kuvarjibhai Mohanbhai;Kaswan Shri Ram Singh;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of uranium reserves with locations in the country;
- (b) whether the country is passing through deep crisis on account of shortage of uranium;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey on availability of atomic and nuclear minerals in the country;
- (d) if so, whether the Government is working on a plan for production of uranium from country's reserves and their optimum utilization with a view to achieve self-reliance in the field of nuclear energy; and
- (e) 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) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent Unit of the Department of Atomic Energy has established 1,62,762 tonnes of Uranium resources (U3O8) as on 31.12.2010. The state- wise details of the same are as follows:

STATE	ESTIMATED RESOURCES (TONNES U3O8)
-------	--------------------------------------

ANDHRA PRADESH	79,142
----------------	--------

CHHATTISGARH	3,986
--------------	-------

HIMACHAL PRADESH	784
------------------	-----

JHARKHAND	48,074
-----------	--------

KARNATAKA	4,682
-----------	-------

MAHARASHTRA	355
-------------	-----

MEGHALAYA 18,578

RAJASTHAN 6,276

UTTAR PRADESH 785

UTTARAKHAND 100

TOTAL 1,62,762

(b) Of the total 20 nuclear power reactors with a capacity of 4780 MW in operation, 10 reactors (1940 MW) are fuelled by imported uranium which is available in adequate quantity. The remaining 10 reactors

(2840 MW) are fuelled by indigenous natural uranium. Though indigenous uranium is not available in the required quantity, the supply has been improving, enabling the operation of these reactors at power levels ranging from 68 to 100% of their rated capacity.

(c) Yes, Sir. AMD has been conducting exploration of atomic minerals and it has during the XI Plan Period (upto December, 2010) established additional 54,905 tonnes of uranium ore bringing the total reserve to 1,62,762 tonnes.

(d)&(e) Yes, Sir. The Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy is presently operating five underground mines viz. Jaduguda, Bhatin, Narwapahar, Turamdih and Bagjata. One opencast mine at Banduhurang and two processing plants at Jaduguda and Turamdih, East Singhbhum District and one underground mine at Mohuldih is under construction at Saraikela Kharswan District, Jharkhand State. Also an underground mine and process plant is under construction at Tummalapalle, Andhra Pradesh. The Lambapur Uranium Project, Nalagonda District, Andhra Pradesh is under pre-project activities. An underground mine and process plant at Gogi, Karnataka is under pre-project stage. Development of uranium resources at Kyelleng Pyndengsohiong Mawathabah (KPM), Meghalaya is also under consideration. Development of uranium resources available at Rohil, Rajasthan is under exploration by AMD for establishing source of water in the area.