

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:147

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011

URANIUM DEPOSITS

Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari; Ray Shri Rudramadhab

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated reserves and exploitation of uranium deposits/resources in various mines in the country;
- (b) whether a uranium mine in Tumalapalli of Andhra Pradesh has been discovered recently;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the estimated quantum of uranium reserves found and the extent to which it is likely to meet the demand of the country's nuclear programme;
- (d) whether the Government has sufficient infrastructure for its utilization;
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the manner in which it is likely to be utilized; and
- (f) the expected time by which the production from this mine is likely to be started and the extent of foreign exchange likely to be saved as a result of reduction of uranium imports?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House:

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.147 BY SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB AND SHRI RUDRA MADHAB RAY REGARDING URANIUM DEPOSITS FOR ANSWER ON 10.08.2011

(a) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research

(AMD), a constituent Unit of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has established the presence of 1,71,672 tonnes of Uranium resources

(insitu) as on 30.06.2011. The Uranium Corporation of India Ltd.

(UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking of this Department, mines the uranium required for the Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors. The estimated reserves in the operating mines are shown below:

Status	Mines/Deposits	Ore in million Tonnes
Operating	Jaduguda, Jharkhand	1.93
units	Bhatin, Jharkhand	1.43
	Narwapahar, Jharkhand	10
	Turamdih, Jharkhand	12
	Banduhurang, Jharkhand	25
	Bagjata, Jharkhand	3.97

(b) Yes, Sir, a uranium reserve has been discovered in Tummalapalle, Kadapa Dist., Andhra Pradesh.

(c) In Tumallapalle, Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh, AMD has established the presence of 63,269 tonnes of Uranium (U₃O₈). The currently known reserves of indigenous uranium in the country can support a nuclear programme with a generating capacity of about 10,000 MWe.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The UCIL has already taken up a plan to construct a mine and a mill in the area and the uranium produced therein shall be used in the indigenous nuclear power programme.

(f) Commissioning of the underground mine and the mineral processing plant of 3000 tpd ore capacity is expected in the year 2012.

Pre-project activities for augmenting the production and processing capacity to 4500 tpd ore are in progress and the project is expected to be commissioned in the year 2015. Further plan has been envisaged to construct another mine and enhance the capacity of the mineral processing plant to 6000 tpd capacity after successful commissioning of the ongoing project. The indigenous uranium will help India to increase nuclear installed capacity thereby providing more electricity for economic growth of the country.