

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1863
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012
NEUTRINO OBSERVATORY PROJECT
Abdulrahman Shri ;Ray Shri Saugata

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status and the broad features of the proposed India based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project;
- (b) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) proposes to supply 50,000 tonnes special steel for building INO; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) The India Based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project is being set up in the Bodi West Hills at the Pottipuram village in Theni district of Tamil Nadu. The land for this project has been acquired. The project aims at carrying out research to study the properties of neutrinos which are the second most abundant particles in the Universe. Neutrinos are neutral particles and weakly interactive particles which are very difficult to detect. Therefore they need a massive detector. INO detector will be a multi layer stack of magnetised iron plates. A large number of such plates will be needed to build the INO detector and with back up of electronics, these detectors are expected to detect neutrinos passing through them. The INO will ultimately help in understanding the evolution of universe. The detectors developed for the INO project will also have societal applications such as in medical imaging.
- (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for the supply of special steel for building INO detector.
- (c) No purchase order has been placed on SAIL or any other agency for supply of steel.