

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4616
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015
IMPORT OF RARE EARTH
Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India depends on import of the finished rare earth materials for meeting its demand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to scale up the facilities of rare earth plants in the country for achieving self-sufficiency in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From the document 'Rare Earths and Energy Critical Elements: A Roadmap and Strategy for India', published by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, (July 2012) the annual import of Rare Earths to India is in the ranges between 213 tons to 670 tons.

(c)&(d) Monazite is the only commercial source of rare earths in India. Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) has set up a 10,000 tpa monazite processing plant at OSCOM, Odisha with capacity to produce about 11,000 tpa of mixed rare earth chloride (MRECL). Besides, IREL has also set up facilities in its plant at RED, Aluva for processing about 5000 tpa of MRCL to produce high pure separated rare earths. IREL has entered into MoU with BARC, Defence Metallurgical Research Lab. (DMRL) & Advanced Research Centre for powder metallurgy & new materials (ARCI) for production of rare earth metals & magnets. Technology for production of rare earth magnets on pilot scale is available with DMRL. Initial trials were successful in making RE permanent magnets using DMRL technology and RE metals produced by BARC using separated rare earth produced by IREL. Therefore, the quantity of rare earths that will be produced by IREL is estimated to be quite sufficient to cater to the domestic market.