

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2821
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2014

CHANGES ATOMIC ENERGY POLICY

2821. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to make changes in the Atomic Energy Policy and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is taking adequate efforts for storage of Uranium;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the efforts made for having adequate uranium resources in the country and the details of agreements signed, if any, with the nuclear supplier group countries in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. Proposals for amendments to the Atomic Energy Act 1962 in this connection will be presented for obtaining approval of the Cabinet after inter-ministerial consultations.
- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) Adequate storage capacity to stock Uranium has been created, with potential for expanding this capacity as needed, at Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)
- (d) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of DAE, carries out survey and exploration to identify and evaluate uranium and thorium resources in India. AMD has so far established 2,14,158 t in-situ Uranium Oxide (U_3O_8) (1,81,606 tonne U) reserves as on October, 2014, for indigenous production.

Consequent upon the Civil Nuclear cooperation, the DAE has been importing Uranium Ore to meet the Fuel requirements of IAEA Safeguarded Nuclear Reactors under Separation Plan. As part of this activity, Contractual Agreements were entered into with M/s. AREVA, France (during 2008), M/s. JSC TVEL Corporation, Russia (during 2009), and M/s. NAC Kazatomprom, Kazakhstan (during 2009). During September 2013, DAE has entered into a Contract with M/s. Navoi Mining & Metallurgical Combinat State Company (NMMC), Uzbekistan for procurement of 2000 MT of Uranium Ore Concentrate.
