

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2083
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.05.2016

SEIZURE OF NUCLEAR MINERAL BERYL BY ATS

2083. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Anti-Terrorism Squad has Seized 20 tonnes of nuclear mineral 'Beryl' from the container depot situated at Kanakpura of Rajasthan;
- (b) the number of persons arrested so far in this connection;
- (c) whether these offenders were exporting this banned mineral to the countries like China and Hong Kong, etc.; and
- (d) since when this illegal business of exporting banned mineral was going on and the steps taken by Government to check this illegal export?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. ATS has seized approximately 31 tonnes of nuclear material (beryl) from container depot of Kanakpura, Rajasthan.
- (b) Six persons have been apprehended and charge sheeted so far in this connection.
- (c) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy(DAE) has received information on illegal export of beryl through an anonymous letter. The information was shared with the Central Intelligence agency (IB) by DAE for enquiring in to the facts and taking necessary action. IB officials, Jaipur have informed that consignment of Beryl (a Prescribed Material under the Atomic

Energy Act–1962) was illegally being sent from Rajasthan to Bengaluru and from Bengaluru, it was being exported to China.

- (d) AMD received the information on illegal export of beryl through an anonymous letter dated 04.05.2015 in Western Region, AMD, Jaipur. The information was shared with the Central intelligence agency (IB) by DAE for enquiring into the facts and taking necessary action. IB officials, Jaipur have informed that consignment of Beryl (a Prescribed Material under the Atomic Energy Act-1962) is illegally being sent from Rajasthan to Bengaluru and from Bengaluru, it is being exported to China.

The ATS, Rajasthan Police has seized approximately 31 tonnes of nuclear material (beryl) from container depot of Kanakpura, Rajasthan. Six persons have been apprehended and charge sheeted so far in this connection.

The existing Acts and rules are sufficient to stop and fight the threat of nuclear assets being smuggled out of the Country. However, considering the strategic nature of atomic minerals and following the amendment of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act, 1957 in January 2015, DAE has drafted 'The Atomic Minerals Concession Rules 2015' and 'The Atomic Minerals (Conservation and Development) Rules 2015' aimed at conserving the atomic minerals and forwarded the same to the Ministry of Mines, Government of India.
