

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1123
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2015

ACUTE SHORTAGE OF URANIUM

1123. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps which Government is considering to overcome the acute shortage of uranium deposit in the country;
- (b) whether it is high time to vigorously make efforts to explore new uranium deposits in the country; and
- (c) the steps which are being taken to face the situation?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Consequent upon signing of Civil Nuclear cooperation, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has been importing Uranium Ore to meet the Fuel requirements of Safeguarded Nuclear Reactors which are open for inspection by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Accordingly, contractual Agreements were entered into with the following organisations/countries:
 - (1) M/s. AREVA, France .
 - (2) M/s. JSC TVEL Corporation, Russia.
 - (3) M/s. NAC Kazatomprom, Kazakhstan.
 - (4) M/s. Navoi Mining & Metallurgical Combinat State Company, (NMMC), Uzbekistan.
 - (5) M/s CAMECO, Canada.
- (b) & (c) Requirement of fuel for 8 reactors viz., Kaiga Generating Station (KGS)-1 to 4 located at Kaiga, Karnataka; Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) 1 & 2 at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu; and Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) 3 & 4 at Tarapur, Maharashtra is met from indigenous sources. As of June 2015, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research (AMD), a constituent Unit under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has carried out survey and exploration resulting in establishing 2,25,936t *in-situ* U₃O₈ (1,91,594t Uranium) reserves. The exploration activities are continuous processes carried out in various geological domains across the country. The Government has made efforts to augment indigenous supply by opening of new mines and processing facilities. As a result there has been a progressive improvement in capacity utilisation of nuclear power plants.