

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1924
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2015
DECREASE IN PRODUCTION OF THORIUM

1924. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that production of Thorium as Thorium Nitrate has consistently been decreasing since 2000;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that in spite of continuous reduction in the production of Thorium as Thorium Nitrate, the export of the same is going up since 2008-09, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) what are the reasons that production of Thorium as Thorium Oxalate has stopped from 2013-14?

ANSWER

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

(a)&(b) The production of Thorium Nitrate reduced from 240 MT in year 2000-01 to 144 MT in year 2003-04 and further increased to 180 MT in the year 2004-05. The production of Thorium Nitrate again decreased from 180 MT in the year 2004-05 to 74.2 MT in the year 2010-11 and further increased to 123 MT in the year 2011-12. Due to stoppage of Monazite Processing Plant (MoPP) at Rare Earths Division (RED) of Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) at Udyogamandal, Kerala, the production of Thorium Nitrate reduced to about 40 MT in 2013-14.

The export of Thorium Nitrate since 2008-09 is as follows:

Year	Export in MT
2008-09	0.660
2009-10	1.250
2010-11	5.200
2011-12	4.050
2012-13	2.630
2013-14	4.850
2014-15	9.100

(c) The inventory of crude Thorium concentrate stored in silos at Rare Earth Division (RED) of Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) at Udyogamandal, Kerala was exhausted in April 2012 following its retrieval and reprocessing. Hence, there was no production of Thorium Oxalate subsequently.

IREL has set up a Monazite Processing Plant (MoPP) at Orissa Sands Complex (OSCOM) unit to produce Thorium Oxalate. Commercial production of MoPP at OSCOM started on 1st May 2015.
