

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.322
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2015

DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF URANIUM IN NUCLEAR PLANTS

322. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:
SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a gap between demand and supply of uranium in nuclear power plants of the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the measures taken to meet the demand of uranium for smooth functioning of nuclear projects?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No, Sir. The country has 21 nuclear power reactors under operation with an installed generating capacity of 5780 MWe. Thirteen (13) reactors with a total installed capacity of 3380 MW viz., TAPS-1&2 located at Tarapur, Maharashtra; RAPS-2 to 6 located at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan; KAPS-1&2 located at Kakrapar, Gujarat; NAPS-1&2 located at Narora, Uttar Pradesh; and KKNPP-1 located at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu are under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and are eligible for imported fuel. These reactors are operating at rated power. However, one reactor, RAPS-1 located at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan (100 MW) is under extended shutdown for techno-economic assessment.

Eight (8) reactors with a total installed capacity of 2400 MW viz., TAPS-3&4 at Tarapur, Maharashtra; MAPS-1&2 near Chennai; and KGS-1 to 4 at Kaiga, Karnataka are fuelled by indigenous fuel. They are presently operated close to their rated power, matching availability of fuel.

- (b) The Government had made efforts to augment indigenous uranium supply by opening of new mines and processing facilities thus narrowing down the demand-supply gap for reactors using indigenous fuel. As a result, there has been a progressive improvement in capacity utilisation of nuclear power plants. To meet requirement of fuel for reactors under IAEA safeguards, agreements for import of uranium are signed with M/s Navoi Mining & Metallurgical Combinat State Company (NMMC), Uzbekistan; M/s JSC TVEL Corporation, Russia; M/s NAC Kazatomprom, Kazakhstan, and M/s CAMECO, Canada.
