

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2952
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2012

QUANTUM OF THORIUM RESERVE WITH INDIA

2952. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of thorium reserves with India;
- (b) the quantity of thorium exported by India over the years; and
- (c) the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

(a) A total quantity of 10.70 million tonnes of in-situ reserves of Monazite has been established in the country. This contains approximately 0.856 million tonnes of Thorium. Thorium does not exist in nature as metal. Thorium is present to an extent of about 8% in monazite which is a naturally occurring Beach sand mineral; and further, monazite always co-exists with other Beach sand minerals such as ilmenite, rutile, leucoxene, sillimanite , garnet and zircon.

(b)&(c) Thorium is a processed output product of monazite, which is a 'prescribed substance' under the Atomic Energy Act 1962. Thorium itself is also a prescribed substance under the Atomic Energy Act 1962. Further, under the Atomic Energy (Working of the Mines, Minerals and Handling of Prescribed Substances) Rules 1984, License from the Government of India, DAE is required to handle /import /export /transport /store etc. any prescribed substance, including Monazite.

The only entity that has been given a licence by DAE to export thorium, in the form of thorium compounds, is Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a Public Sector Undertaking under DAE. A total of 11.16 tonnes of Thorium nitrate and 151 kilograms of Thorium oxide has been exported by IREL in the ten years period upto 2011-12; as under:

Year	Export of Thorium Nitrate (in tonnes)	Export of Thorium Oxide (in kgs)
2002-03	0	0
2003-04	0	0
2004-05	0	0
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	0	0
2007-08	0	0
2008-09	0.660	100
2009-10	1.250	51
2010-11	5.200	0
2011-12	4.050	0
