

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3278
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2011

URANIUM RESERVES

3278. SHRI SIVASAMI C.:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the uranium deposits in the country are sufficient to meet the demand of our nuclear plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the uranium, found in India, is of better quality than found in other countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy has established 1,72,390 tonnes in situ Uranium resources (U_3O_8) as on November, 2011. The currently known reserves of indigenous uranium in the country can support a nuclear programme with a generating capacity of about 10,000 MWe.
- (c)&(d) Quality of uranium found in India is comparable to any world-class deposits. However, in comparison to world occurrences, uranium deposits established in India are mostly of low-grade (less than 0.15% U). The average grade of Indian Uranium deposits range from 0.030 to 0.180% U_3O_8 . The uranium deposits world over have a wide range of average grade, starting from 0.01 – 0.03% U at Witwatersrand, through 0.13 – 0.22% U at Ranger Deposits, Australia, to as high as 17.8% at McArthur River deposit, Canada(source IAEA Tech Doc.1629, 2009).
