

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 6416
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/05/2010**

SUICIDE AMONG SCIENTISTS

**6416 SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO:
SHRI SHIVARAMA GOUDA:
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:**

WILL THE PRIME MINISTER BE PLEASED TO STATE:

- (a) the details of the cases of suicide by the scientists and employees of the various atomic research centres of Department of Atomic Energy during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and centrewise;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry/registered cases in this regard;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to take necessary preventive measures to protect the lives of scientists posted at sensitive places; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):**

- (a) The details are furnished in the attached Annexure.
- (b) & (c) All the cases have been reported to the nearest police station and the Police are conducting investigations.
- (d) & (e) The Scientists & Employees of the Department are provided with excellent living conditions and career opportunities. The Scientific and Technical promotions in the Department are governed by the Merit Promotion Scheme and are not vacancy based. Compulsory health care facilities are provided covering all disciplines including mental help, social welfare services counseling and psychiatry.

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This covers both employees and their families. Cultural and recreational activities are also conducted regularly. Adequate physical protection measures are provided both at the residential complex & at work sites.

Annexure

| S.No | Name | Designation | Unit to which belongs | Date of incident |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 2008 | | | | |
| N I L | | | | |
| 2009 | | | | |
| 1 | Shri R. Devan | Helper-B (C) | Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam (IGCAR) | 13.04.2009 |
| 2 | Shri K. Kasinathan | Foreman-A | IGCAR | 31.10.2009 |
| 2010 | | | | |
| 1 | Shri Anantha Narayan | Scientific Officer-E | IGCAR | 15.02.2010 |
| 2 | Ms. Titas Pal | Scientific Officer-C | Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay (BARC) | 03.03.2010 |
| 3 | Shri Ashutosh Sharma | Scientific Assistant-C | BARC | 08.03.2010 |
| 4 | Shri Subash Sonaji Sonawane | Tradesman/F | BARC | 23.04.2010 |
| 5 | Shri Akshay P. Chavan | Lower Division Clerk | BARC | 30.04.2010 |
| 6 | Shri M. Tirumala Prasad Tenka | Scientific Officer-D | Raja Ramanna Cente for Advanced Technology, Indore (RRCAT) | 10.04.2010 |

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 6433
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/05/2010**

NUCLEAR TEST

6433 SHRI WAKCHAURE BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM:

WILL THE PRIME MINISTER BE PLEASED TO STATE:

- (a) whether the Government has decided not to conduct nuclear tests in future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the country has become self-reliant in nuclear power; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):**

- (a) & (b) After the 1998 nuclear tests Government has declared a unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests. This was reiterated by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the then Hon'ble External Relations Minister on 6th September, 2008 wherein he interalia reiterated India's stand on disarmament and non-proliferation. He said "We remain committed to a voluntary, unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing. We do not subscribe to any race, including a nuclear arms race. We have always tempered the exercise of our strategic autonomy with a sense of global responsibility. We affirm our policy of no-first-use of nuclear weapons."
- (c) & (d) India is self reliant in nuclear power and in the nuclear fuel cycle. Limited uranium reserves are the hurdle to achieving much needed faster growth of nuclear power generation. Import of uranium and setting up of nuclear reactors in co-operation with foreign vendors will help us in achieving rapid growth in the near future.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 6501
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/05/2010**

PLF OF NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION

6501 SHRI S SEMMALAI:

WILL THE PRIME MINISTER BE PLEASED TO STATE:

- (a) whether the Plant Load Factor (PLF) of Nuclear Power Plants has come down to 60% during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to meet the fuel shortage?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):**

- (a) The Plant Load Factor(PLF) of nuclear power plants in operation in the year 2009-10 was 61%
- (b) There are 19 nuclear power reactors with a capacity of 4560 MW in operation in the country. Out of these, 5 reactors of 960 MW use imported uranium and are being operated at high PLFs. 14 nuclear power reactors are fuelled by domestic uranium which is not available in the required quantity. These reactors are being operated at lower power levels to match the fuel availability, resulting in lower average PLF.
- (c) The Government has taken a series of measures to augment the fuel supply from domestic sources and through imports for fueling reactors under safeguards, which have resulted in increase in average annual PLF from 50% in 2008-09 to 61% in 2009-10. The uranium prospecting, exploration, mining and commissioning of processing mills thereof is an ongoing endeavor and the resulting augmentation of domestic uranium supplies are expected to improve the PLF of nuclear power plants progressively.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 6553
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/05/2010**

IMPORT OF URANIUM

6553 SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:

WILL THE PRIME MINISTER BE PLEASED TO STATE:

- (a) whether the Government has signed any agreement with foreign countries to ensure regular supply of uranium to the nuclear reactors in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, countrywise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to import uranium from Australia who are largest producer of uranium; and
- (d) if so, the quantity of uranium imported from Australia during the last three years?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):**

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Contracts have been signed with France, Russia and Kazakhstan for supply of Uranium. The details of the contract are detailed below :-

| Sr No | Country | Details of contract |
|-------|------------|---|
| 1. | France | 300 MT of Uranium Ore Concentrates |
| 2. | Russia | 2000 MT Natural Uranium Oxide Pellets spread over a period of five to six years; and 58 MT of enriched Uranium Dioxide Pellets |
| 3. | Kazakhstan | 2100 MT of Natural Uranium Ore Concentrate, spread over six years |

- (c) & (d) No, Sir.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 6567
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/05/2010**

URANIUM IN MEGHALAYA

**6567 SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:
SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA:**

WILL THE PRIME MINISTER BE PLEASED TO STATE:

- (a) whether the Meghalaya region has a good potential of Uranium;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantity of Uranium likely to be extracted from the region;
- (c) whether the production of Uranium from the region will be sufficient to meet the requirements of Nuclear Plants in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken or being taken by the Government to extract uranium from the region including the time by which the production is likely to commence?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):**

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy has identified 17,252 tonnes of high grade insitu Uranium resources in Meghalaya.
- (c) At full capacity production from the proposed uranium project at Kylleng Pyndengsohiong Mawthabah, West Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya, it is expected to meet about 20% of the indigenous requirement.

- (d) & (e) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), proposes to set up a mine and mill at Kylleng Pyndengsohiong Mawthabah in the West Khasi Hills district in Meghalaya. Various pre-project activities are being carried out and project will commence only after receipt of all statutory clearances from State and Central Governments. No definite time frame can be set for obtaining these clearances.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 6575
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/05/2010**

PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN NUCLEAR POWER SECTOR

**6575 SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:**

WILL THE PRIME MINISTER BE PLEASED TO STATE:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister's economic advisory panel has suggested that nuclear power sector should be opened to private investments which would help the power-starved economy to grow on a sustained basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the panel has also pointed out that there is an urgent need to make regulatory changes so that investment including from established private companies interested in the business can begin to flow;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the suggestions recommended by the panel and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):**

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister in its "Economic Outlook for 2009-10" of October 2009 and in the "Review of the Economy 2009-10" of February, 2010 has recommended private sector participation in nuclear power sector.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Council has recommended amendment of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 so as to permit the entry of reputable private companies in the nuclear power sector.

(d) & (e) The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 gives power to Central Government to produce, develop, use and dispose of atomic energy either by itself or through any authority or corporation established by it or a Government company in which not less than 51% of the paid up share capital is held by the Central Government. At present Indian private sector can participate in nuclear power generation projects as a minority partner. For the present participation of Indian private sector in nuclear power generation projects will continue to be as per the existing provisions of Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

Amendments to Atomic Energy Act has to be done in a careful manner after a detailed examination of all issues, including nuclear safety, physical security and international commitments.
