

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2409
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2015

URANIUM FOUND IN TELANGANA

2409. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that as per the aerial survey conducted by GSI, NGRI, Atomic Mineral Directorate, etc. Uranium prospects have been found in Suryapet- Nalgonda district of Telangana, if so, the details of the survey; and
- (b) in what manner the above metals are helpful and the plan of action the Ministry has to explore the same?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), an exploration agency with a mandate to evaluate mineral resources of uranium, thorium, and other prescribed substances required for the implementation of Nuclear Power Programme of the country, has located significant uranium deposits in parts of Nalgonda District, Telangana.

The known uranium deposits have been located through ground, airborne and heliborne geophysical surveys over parts of Suryapet-Nalgonda district, Telangana.

The details of the survey conducted are as under:

Year	Type	Surveys
1983-84	Airborne Surveys	Gamma-Ray Spectrometric and magnetic surveys
2009-10	Heliborne Surveys	Gamma-Ray Spectrometric, Time Domain Electro
2010-11		Magnetic (TDEM) and Magnetic

The details of the uranium deposits identified in the state of Telangana as of December 2014 are as under.

District	Name of the deposit	Uranium reserves District	
		U ₃ O ₈ (t)	U (t)
Nalgonda	Lambapur	1,450	1,230
	Peddagattu	7,585	6,432
Nalgonda	Chitrial	9,515	8,069
	Sub-total	18,550	15,731

- (b) The uranium reserves established by AMD are mined by M/s Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), Jaduguda, a Public Sector Undertaking Unit of DAE, and subsequently processed by Nuclear Fuel Complex at Hyderabad. Such processed material is used in nuclear reactors by M/s Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) for generation of electricity.

The deposits in the Nalgonda district consists of isolated ore patches spread over a distance and the product will be economical only if opencast mining is permitted. UCIL and DAE have made efforts to initiate the mining of uranium deposits located at Lambapur-Peddagattu by obtaining Environmental Clearance from State Government, though validity of which has since expired. There are some constraints such as (i) public apprehension about contamination of Nagarjunsagar - a major source of water; and (ii) strong opposition by NGO.
