

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3723**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.05.2012

**SHORTAGE OF URANIUM**

3723. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that our nuclear plants are presently facing a shortage of Uranium due to its unavailability;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that huge unused reserves of Uranium amounting to approximately over one lakh ton are available in the States like Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu; and
- (c) the reasons for not utilising these reserves as a result of which we are bound to depend on foreign resources?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Out of 20 nuclear reactors with an installed capacity of 4780 MW, presently one reactor (Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-1 of capacity 100 MW) is under extended shut down. Remaining 19 reactors are currently in operation. Ten reactors with a capacity of 2840 MW comprising Kaiga Generation Station 1 to 4 (4x220 MW), Narora Atomic Power Station 1&2 (2x220 MW), Madras Atomic Power Station 1&2 (2x220MW) and Tarapur Atomic Power Station 3&4 (2x 540 MW) are fuelled by indigenous uranium, which is not available in the required quantity. These are accordingly being operated at lower power levels matching the fuel supply. The remaining 9 reactors which are under International Atomic energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards use imported fuel and are operating at rated capacity.

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- (b) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy is engaged in survey and exploration of uranium resources required for the successful implementation of atomic energy programme of the country. So far AMD has established 1,75,010 tonnes of uranium resources in different parts of the country. The details are as given below:

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Uranium resources established</b>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86876
2.	Jharkhand	50978
3.	Meghalaya	19738
4.	Rajasthan	6726
5.	Karnataka	4682
6.	Chhattisgarh	3986
7.	Uttar Pradesh	785
8.	Himachal Pradesh	784
9.	Maharashtra	355
10.	Uttarakhand	100
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,75,010</b>

- (c) Mining technology and economics are the important criteria which decide the exploitation status of a deposit. Based on these criteria, many of the small deposits are not amenable to mining at present. In addition, constraints due to logistics, present status of technology, socio-economic considerations, environmental aspects, scarcity of water-resources etc. have slackened the process of initiation of mining of some of the deposits at Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

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