

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 379
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2012

UNTAPPED URANIUM/THORIUM RESERVES

*379. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of uranium and thorium produced in the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (b) whether there is huge untapped reserves of uranium and thorium in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.379 FOR ANSWER ON 19.12.2012 BY SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: SHRI RAKESH SINGH REGARDING UNTAPPED URANIUM/THORIUM RESERVES.

(a) to (d) India has relatively modest reserves of uranium and considerable reserves of thorium.

About 1,84,964 tonnes of in situ uranium reserves and 107 Lakh tonnes of Monazite reserves (which contain about 8.56 lakh tonnes of thorium Oxide) have been confirmed, till date, in the country. State wise details are as follows:

Uranium Reserves:

State	Established Uranium resources (in tonnes)
Andhra Pradesh	93,492
Jharkhand	53,079
Meghalaya	20,457
Rajasthan	7,244
Karnataka	4,682
Chhattisgarh	3,986
Uttar Pradesh	785
Uttarakhand	100
Himachal Pradesh	784
Maharashtra	355
Total	1,84,964

Monazite reserves

State	Established Monazite resources(in Lakh tonnes)
Kerala	15.1
Tamil Nadu	21.6
Andhra Pradesh	37.4
Odisha	18.5
West Bengal	12.2
Jharkhand	02.2
Total	107

Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent Unit of Department of Atomic Energy is the specialist agency entrusted with the task of survey and exploration for Atomic Mineral reserves in the country. The agency has been in operation since 1949. Uranium Corporation of India Limited, (UCIL), a PSU under the Department of Atomic Energy, is engaged in mining and processing of uranium ore in the country. The Company routinely assesses the newly established uranium resources of the country for the techno-economic viability of their development and extraction of uranium. Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a PSU under the Department of Atomic Energy, is engaged in mining and beneficiation of beach sand minerals (which includes Monazite) present in the coastal areas of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Odisha. Factors such as problems on land acquisition, rehabilitation/resettlement of affected persons, environmental sensitivity due to proximity of drinking water sources, reserve forest / tiger sanctuary locations, socio-political issues, availability of water, environmental and forest issues, public consensus, etc. influence the decisions on mining and exploitation of established uranium and thorium resources in the country. The Department is continuously making efforts to establish the presence of more uranium and thorium reserves in the country; and exploit the same through mining and processing for utilisation to meet the needs of the country.

It is not in the public interest to disclose information on the quantity of uranium and thorium produced in the country.
