

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1721
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.08.2012

THORIUM RESERVE

1721. SHRI L. RAJA GOPAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Andhra Pradesh has the highest Monazite mineral reserves in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of thorium that can be extracted from the above reserves;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to exploit these reserves; and
- (d) the projects requirement of thorium by 2020?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes Sir.
- (b) Exploration activities carried out by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), has resulted in establishing 3.74 million tonnes of Monazite in Andhra Pradesh which contains about 3,36,600 tonnes of thorium oxide equivalent to 2,96,000 tonnes of thorium metal.
- (c) The said reserves are explored and established.
- (d) Indian three stage nuclear power programme is aimed at long term energy independence including use of thorium resources in the third stage. In order to realise this goal, presently, the first stage of the programme is accomplished through the nuclear reactors based on natural uranium fuel. The second stage envisages setting up of Fast Breeder Reactors. A Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor is planned at Kalpakkam. The utilisation of thorium would be technically possible only in the third stage. Since the country is still in the first stage of the nuclear power programme, the requirement of Thorium by 2020, is quite modest.
