

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 349
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2013

URANIUM RESERVES IN THE COUNTRY

*349 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the areas where uranium reserves are present in the country;
- (b) whether the existing reserves are sufficient to run atomic power stations in the country;
- (c) if not, the names of the countries from which Government proposes to import uranium;
- (d) the other places where atomic power stations are proposed to be set up in the country; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken for allaying the apprehensions of people of the country in view of problems encountered in the atomic power station of Japan?

ANSWER

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.349 FOR ANSWER ON 21.03.2013 BY SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA REGARDING URANIUM RESERVES IN COUNTRY

- (a) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy, has so far established 1,86,653 t *in-situ* uranium (U_3O_8) resources in the country. State-wise details of deposits identified are as given below:

State	Uranium resources (tonnes U_3O_8)
Andhra Pradesh	93,492
Jharkhand	54,768
Meghalaya	20,457
Rajasthan	7,244
Karnataka	4,682
Chhattisgarh	3,986
Uttar Pradesh	785
Uttarakhand	100
Himachal Pradesh	784
Maharashtra	355
Total	1,86,653

[1 tonne of U_3O_8 = 0.848 tonnes of uranium metal]

- (b) The currently known reserves of indigenous uranium in the country is not sufficient to run atomic power stations in the country.
- (c) The Central government is presently importing uranium from Russia and Kazakhstan under long-term contracts.
- (d) At present seven reactors are under construction, Rawatbhata in Rajasthan, Kalpakkam and Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu, and Kakrapar in Gujarat. In addition to this, the Central Government has accorded in-principle approval for sites for setting up of nuclear power plants at Jaitapur in Maharashtra, Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh, Chhaya-Mithi-Virdi in Gujarat, Gorakhpur in Haryana, Chutka and Bhimpur in Madhya Pradesh, Mahi Banswara in Rajasthan and Haripur in West Bengal, apart from locating additional units at the existing sites of Kundankulam and Kaiga.
- (e) The ongoing public outreach programmes of Department of Atomic Energy have been enhanced following the Fukushima incident to allay the people's apprehensions about the safety of nuclear power, radiation and other related aspects in a credible manner adopting a multi-pronged approach. The focus of the outreach have been the local community, decision-makers and people's representatives, press and media, students and teachers, opinion-makers apart from the general public at large. The efforts include production of appropriate public awareness materials and their dissemination among all the target groups.
