

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.368\***  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2017

**PRODUCTION AND IMPORT OF URANIUM**

\*368. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the production of uranium in the country and the quantity thereof required annually to generate atomic energy;
- (b) the total quantity of uranium imported from foreign countries and the names of those countries;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any plan to acquire selfreliance in uranium; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

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

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED  
QUESTION NO. 368 BY SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA REGARDING PRODUCTION  
AND IMPORT OF URANIUM FOR ANSWER ON 06.04.2017

- (a) It is not in public interest to disclose the production of uranium in the country. About 860 MT of uranium is required annually to meet the operational requirements of the existing Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) [16 Nos. of 220 MWe and 2 Nos. of 540 MWe capacity]. Similarly, around 16 MT of Enriched Uranium is required for operating 2 Nos. of Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs).
- (b) Pursuant to the Civil Nuclear cooperation, around 7810 MT of Natural Uranium and about 100 MT of Enriched Uranium has been imported from France, Russia, Kazakhstan and Canada since the year 2009 to till date.
- (c) Yes, Sir. Uranium Corporation of India Ltd., a Public Sector undertaking under Department of Atomic Energy is engaged in mining and processing of uranium ore in the country. Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has made a plan for multifold increase in nuclear power generation in the country which calls for progressive increase in uranium production of the country achieving nearly ten-fold rise in next 15 years (by 2031-32).
- (d) The Government has taken measures to augment domestic uranium supply by opening of new mines and processing facilities. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of DAE, which has a mandate to identify, evaluate and establish mineral resources of uranium, has prepared a comprehensive plan for augmenting uranium resources by incorporating significant enhancement in exploration activities by utilising up-to-date technology e.g. high-resolution heliborne geophysical survey, hyper-spectral remote sensing, high-capacity hydrostatic drilling and state-of-the-art laboratory instrumentation etc.

Uranium Corporation of India Ltd., a Public Sector Enterprise under Department of Atomic Energy is currently operating seven uranium mines (Bagjata, Jaduguda, Bhatin, Narwapahar, Turamdih, Banduhurang and Mohuldih) and two processing plants (Jaduguda plant and Turamdih plant) in the state of Jharkhand. Construction of a mine and processing plant has been started at Tummalapalle in Andhra Pradesh which is under final stages of commissioning. UCIL has outlined a plan for massive expansion which includes plan to maintain sustained supply from existing facilities, capacity expansion of some existing units and construction of new production centers (mines and plants) in different parts of the country. Considering the resources already identified in different geological basins by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), UCIL's major production centers are planned in Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telengana, Rajasthan and Meghalaya.

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