GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2397
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2017

ESTIMATION OF ATOMIC MINERAL RESERVES

2397. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any estimate about the atomic mineral reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken to undertake exploration by locating the new reserves?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), which has a mandate to identify and evaluate resources of atomic minerals of uranium, thorium, niobium, tantalum, beryllium, lithium, zirconium, titanium and rare earths containing uranium and thorium has established adequate quantity of atomic mineral resources as given below:

Uranium	2,48,786 tone Uranium Oxide (U_3O_8)
Beach Sand Minerals (BSM) (monazite, ilmenite, leucoxene, rutile, Zircon, garnet and sillimanite	1,173,07 million tonne
Thorium (as monazite)	12.47 million tonne (1.12 million tonne ThO_2)
Titanium (as ilmenite + leucoxene + rutile)	682.30 million tonne
Zirconium (as zircon)	35.75 million tonne
Garnet	187.46 million tonne
Sillimanite	255.09 million tonne

(c) In order to speedily augment the resources of atomic minerals from existing deposits as well as identify new deposits, AMD is presently carrying out integrated, multi-disciplinary exploration in several potential thrust areas of the country by utilising state-of-the-art technology in remote-sensing, geological, radiometric, geochemical and heliborne / ground geophysical surveys and drilling. Besides, various laboratories equipped with modern and high-tech instruments are providing timely and accurate analytical support to the on-going exploration programme.

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