

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 7
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2017

EXPLOITATION OF URANIUM RESERVES OF KARNATAKA

7. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURHTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that, as per the survey conducted by the Department of Atomic Energy, nearly 9,000 tonnes of uranium reserves are found in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what plans Uranium Corporation of India has for commercial exploitation of those reserves; and
- (d) how the uranium from those reserves is comparable with those being imported from Australia, Kazakhstan, Canada and other major uranium producing countries?

ANSWER

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

- (a)&(b) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), which has the mandate to identify and evaluate mineral resources of uranium in the country, has so far established 4,682 tonne (t) *in situ* U₃O₈(3,970 tonne U) in Karnataka as given below:

Name of the Deposit	District	t U ₃ O ₈	t U
Gogi	Yadgir	4,267	3,618
Walkunji-Yellakki	South Kanara	415	352
Total		4,682	3,970

[1 t U₃O₈= 0.848 t uranium metal (U)]

- (c) The resources identified by AMD in Gogi-Kanchankai area in Yadgir district of Karnataka are under evaluation by Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL). UCIL has already carried out the techno-commercial studies in Gogi area. Pre-project activities like land acquisition and environmental studies are in different stages of implementation. UCIL has also been interacting with State Pollution Control Board and Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MOEFCC) on this project.
- (d) The quality of Uranium produced in the country and that of the imported Uranium is comparable. No contract is signed with Australia for import of Uranium. Hence, there is no import from Australia.
