

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4322
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2018

SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN PRODUCTION OF URANIUM

4322. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) what steps Government is taking to achieve self sufficiency in production of Uranium;
- (b) whether any time-line has been fixed to execute projects for this purpose; and
- (c) if so, the details of such projects and their current status country-wide especially in Jharkhand?

ANSWER

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

- (a) To achieve self-sufficiency in production of uranium, the Government has taken measures to augment domestic uranium supply by state-of-the-art, integrated, multi-disciplinary exploration and opening new mines and processing facilities.
- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) Uranium Corporation of India Ltd (UCIL) has made a detailed plan in line with Department of Atomic Energy's (DAE's) vision to achieve self- sufficiency in uranium production achieving nearly ten-fold rise in next 15 years (by 2031-32). UCIL has outlined a plan for massive expansion which includes maintaining 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 basin by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of DAE, UCIL's major production centers are planned in Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Rajasthan

and Meghalaya. The uranium mining projects have been planned in three phases to step up production in a systematic manner. The actual increase in production will be dependent on adequacy of funding and early environmental clearance.

A list of operating units in Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh is as follows:

i) Jharkhand

- a. Jaduguda underground mine
- b. Bhatin underground mine
- c. Bagjata underground mine
- d. Narwapahar underground mine
- e. Turamdih underground mine
- f. Mohuldih underground mine
- g. Banduhurang opencast mine
- h. Jaduguda Processing Plant
- i. Turamdih Processing Plant

ii) Andhra Pradesh

- a. Tummalapalle underground mine
- b. Tummalapalle Processing Plant

Towards meeting the urgent need of uranium production, new projects in Singhbhum have been taken up on priority for implementation. Pre-project activities are in progress.

UCIL has also initiated activities which include preparation of feasibility reports, mine planning and mining layout, to expand existing mine & plant and setup new mines & plants around Tummalapalle area in Andhra Pradesh. Pre-project activities are in progress for the following projects.

- i) Tummalapalle Mine and Plant Expansion of 1500 tpd.
- ii) Tummalapalle Deeper Mine and Plant Uranium Project of 3000 tpd.
- iii) Kannampalle Mine and Plant Uranium Project of 3000 tpd.
- iv) Kannampalle Deeper Mine and Plant Uranium Project of 4500 tpd.

The above projects are expected to be in operation after 6 years on obtaining statutory and administrative clearances.
