

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2081**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2017

**AVAILABILITY OF POTENTIAL ATOMIC MINERAL BLOCKS**

2081. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many potential atomic mineral blocks are available in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the position of exploration and mining of these minerals?

**ANSWER**

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

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- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), has the mandate to identify and evaluate mineral resources of uranium, thorium, niobium, tantalum, beryllium, lithium, zirconium, titanium and rare earths containing uranium and thorium.

During the last six and a half decades, AMD has identified adequate resources of atomic minerals in the country, including Andhra Pradesh.

The details of established potential atomic mineral blocks in Andhra Pradesh are furnished below:

Potential blocks of uranium

AMD has so far established 1,44,541 tonnes (t) *in situ* U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> (1,22,570 t U) in Andhra Pradesh as on June, 2017 as given below:

| District | Name of the deposit | Uranium resource                  |          | Status   |
|----------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|--|
|          |                     | U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (t) | U (t)*   |  |
| Kadapa   | Tummalapalle Group  | 1,41,780                          | 1,20,229 | (a) Mining in operation where deposits already explored.<br>(b) Further investigation in progress for identifying more deposits. |
| Guntur   | Koppunuru           | 2,761                             | 2,341    | Under investigation  |
| Total    |                     | 1,44,541                          | 1,22,570 |  |

\*[1t U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> = 0.848 t uranium metal (U)]

Tummalapalle Group uranium deposit is the single largest uranium deposit discovered so far in India (1,41,780 tonnes of U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>). The vast extent of the deposit, its stratabound nature in carbonate rock and uniform grade and thickness of the mineralisation over considerable length both along the strike and dip make the deposit unique in the world. Two ore lodes are under active exploration up to a vertical depth of 1,100m. Further, intensive sub-surface exploration in the east of the deposit, has established another potential sector having 12 km strike length (Rachakuntapalle East-Velamvaripalle) with similar mineralisation characteristics. This has substantially increased the uranium potential of this geological domain.

- (c) Koppunuru Uranium deposit is at exploration stage and for mining Tummalapalle Group uranium deposit, Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector Unit (PSU) of DAE has set up a mine.

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