

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 467**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2014

**DEPOSITS OF RARE EARTHS**

467. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has data regarding the deposits of rare earths in the country, State-wise details thereof;
- (b) if so, the mineral contained in the above; and
- (c) where these minerals are being utilised?

**ANSWER**

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

---

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constitute unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has estimated the presence of 11.93 million tonnes of monazite resources in the beach sand mineral placer deposits along the coastal tracts of India. Monazite in general, contains about 55 – 60% total Rare Earth Oxide. The state-wise resources of *in situ* monazite established by AMD so far are as follows:

State	Monazite (Million tonne)
Odisha	2.41
Andhra Pradesh	3.72
Tamil Nadu	2.46
Kerala	1.90
West Bengal	1.22
Jharkhand	0.22
Total	11.93

The resources of xenotime, another rare-earth bearing mineral, are negligible in India. AMD has established about 2000 tonnes of xenotime-bearing heavy mineral concentrate containing 2% xenotime in the riverine heavy mineral placer deposits of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

- (c) Monazite is a mineral mainly containing rare earths and thorium - a prescribed substance to be handled by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Accordingly, Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL) wholly owned by the Government of India, under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) utilises monazite mainly for production of rare earth compounds, and thorium, as needed in the Department of Atomic Energy.

\*\*\*\*\*