

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2374
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.11.2016

AVAILABILITY OF URANIUM

2374. SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the availability of uranium and other nuclear resources in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the uranium resources are being controlled/exploited so that they do not fall into private hands;
- (c) whether the Government has any report of the uranium and other nuclear resources being illegally transported out of the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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) 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 in the country. AMD has so far established 4,682 tonne (t) *in situ* U₃O₈ (3,970 tonne U) in Karnataka as given below:

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

[1 t U₃O₈ = 0.848 t uranium metal (U)]

Besides, 3.759 tonne columbite-tantalite (niobium and tantalum mineral), 7.15 tonne beryl (beryllium mineral) and 65.61 tonne spodumene (lithium mineral) have also been recovered from Marlagalla, Mandya district, Karnataka.

The uranium deposits established by AMD are mined by Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector Unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Mining at Gogi, Yadgir district, Karnataka is at Exploratory Mining stage.

Considering the strategic nature of atomic minerals and following the amendment of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) [MMDR] Act, 1957 in January 2015, Ministry of Mines has notified the Atomic Minerals Concession Rules (AMCR), 2016, which stipulate reserving areas containing 'atomic minerals' (defined under Part B, First Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957) equal to or more than a certain threshold value for exploitation and conservation by Government agencies.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.
