

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2324
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.12.2018

SHORTAGE OF NUCLEAR FUEL

2324. SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:
SHRI B.V. NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of nuclear fuel in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to ensure adequate supply of nuclear fuel;
- (c) the time by which the country is likely to become self-dependent in nuclear fuel availability;
- (d) whether Government has signed any MoU with foreign countries for import of uranium or nuclear fuel in any form; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the quantity of uranium imported from various countries and expenditure incurred thereon during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No, Sir. The Government has provided fuel from both indigenous and imported sources in required quantities for operation of nuclear power reactors at their rated power.
- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) As per the vision plan prepared, in order to fulfil the requirement of Uranium to fuel nuclear power plants, Department of Atomic Energy will achieve nearly ten-fold rise in uranium production in next 15 years (by 2031-2032). The uranium

mining projects have been planned in three phases. On completion of the projects in first phase, it is expected to produce 3.5 times of existing uranium production by the 12th year. On completion of the projects in second phase, uranium production is expected to achieve seven times of existing production. With the completion of phase three projects uranium production of the country is expected to record ten-fold increase by 2031-32.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) At present, Directorate of Purchase and Stores (DPS), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy has signed contracts with firms from Kazakhstan and Canada for supply of Natural Uranium Ore concentrate. Apart from these ongoing contracts, DPS completed the execution of contracts with firms from France and Kazakhstan for supply of Natural Uranium Ore concentrate and with firms from Russia for supply of Natural Uranium di Oxide pellets and enriched Uranium di Oxide pellets.

The details of imported uranium and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and the current year is as under:-

Sl. No.	Agency	Description	Year	Quantity received in MTU	Expenditure incurred (₹ in crores)
1	M/s JSC NAC, Kazatomprom, Kazakhstan	Uranium Ore Concentrate	2016-17	1923.663	893.76
			2017-18	1489.999	592.44
			2018-19	392.753	0.17
2	M/s CAMECO Inc., Canada	Uranium Ore Concentrate	2015-16	250.743	158.28
			2016-17	1233.681	534.51
			2017-18	989.452	373.83
3	M/s JSC TVEL, Russia	Enriched Uranium Pellets	2015-16	42.150	303.65
		Fuel Pellets of Natural Uranium Di-oxide	2015-16	303.787	565.13
			2016-17	187.334	395.32
