

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3317
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023.

Uranium Deposits

3317. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh is having the highest quantity of Uranium deposits in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons for delay in exploiting the reserves and the time since when the Government is carrying out investigation in the identified Tummalapalle and Koppunuru deposits;
- (c) whether the Government pay royalty to the State from where they take Uranium deposits; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes Sir. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a Constituent Unit under Department of Atomic Energy, has so far established two uranium deposits i.e., Tummalapalle Group of deposits in YSR district and Koppunuru deposit in Palnadu (erstwhile Guntur) district of Andhra Pradesh. A total of 2,44,070 tonne (t) *in-situ* uranium oxide has been established in these deposits, which includes 2,41,309 t *in-situ* uranium oxide in Tummalapalle and 2,761 t *in-situ* uranium oxide in Koppunuru. Tummalapalle Group of uranium deposits, YSR district, Andhra Pradesh is the single largest uranium deposit discovered so far in India (2,41,309t U₃O₈).

(b) Exploitation of any mineral reserve requires statutory clearances from Central and State Governments and considerable time is required to obtain these clearances. Further, the progress of the projects is solely dependent upon the support from the respective State Governments in granting the statutory clearances. For expansion of Tummalapalle Mine, Environmental Clearance is pending since last five years from State Pollution Control Board. Anti-nuclear NGOs are also strongly active in the region which create frequent hindrances.

Investigations for uranium in Koppunuru were carried out during 1993-2017, whereas investigations for uranium in Tummalapalle have been carried out in two phases i.e., 1986-1995 and 2007 to till date.

(c)&(d) Yes Sir. An amount of Rs. 78.81 Crores, has been paid to Government of Andhra Pradesh towards royalty against Tummalapalle mine as per the rate of royalty notified in the Second Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957.
