

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1123
ANSWERED ON 05/12/2024

URANIUM MINING IN ANDHRA PRADESH

1123. SHRI YERRAM VENKATA SUBBA REDDY

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that Atomic Mineral Directorate (AMD) has given permission to dig 68 bores in 15 villages of Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh to find out Uranium reserves;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that AMD had given permission in 2017, but no Uranium was found in the above villages;
- (c) if so, the reasons for giving permission again;
- (d) whether it is a fact that villagers in the above villages are opposing above move of AMD; and
- (e) if so, the action taken by AMD in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No.
- (b) & (c) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India carried out drilling of 20 boreholes in Kappatralla Reserve Forest, Adoni Range, Kurnool division, Andhra Pradesh after obtaining permission from Forest Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh during 2017-18. The drilling indicated preliminary evidences of low grade uranium mineralization in the subsurface. AMD requested forest permission from Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh for drilling to check the possibility of occurrence of uranium mineralization in extension areas.

(d) & (e) AMD has not initiated any drilling activity action in Kappatralla Reserve Forest, Adoni Range, Kurnool Division & district, Andhra Pradesh so far and awaiting the final permission from Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. However, protest in some quarters has been reported.
