

Uranium Mining

1085. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government due to the worsening fuel crunch badly affecting the nuclear plant operations is contemplating of opening Uranium mining to private players;

(b) if so, whether any safety and other measures are being formulated to ensure safe, reliable and responsible mining of this sensitive ore;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the said reform process as would come into operation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No policy decision has been taken on private participation in uranium mining.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Uranium Reserves

†1086. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uranium reserves have been explored in several States of the country;

(b) if so, the States having these reserves and the quantum of Uranium found; and

(c) the States where commercial production has been started with these reserves and the quantity of average annual production from these reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy, has established 1, 16, 373 tonnes of *insitu* uranium resources as on 1.10.2008. The quantum of state-wise uranium reserves found is as follows:

State	Estimated resource (te U ₃ O ₈)
1	2
Jharkhand	47,809

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2
Meghalaya	17,245
Andhra Pradesh	36,196
Chhattisgarh	3,986
Karnataka	4,233
Rajasthan	4,880
Uttar Pradesh	785
Himachal Pradesh	784
Maharashtra	355
Uttarakhand	100
Total	1,16,373

[1 Tonne of U_3O_8 = 0.848 tonnes of uranium metal]

(c) Uranium corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL), a Public Sector undertaking under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy is engaged in mining of uranium and commercial production of uranium. Presently ore production of uranium is carried out in the State of Jharkhand as per the following details:

Mines	Annual Ore Production (tonnes per year)
Jaduguda	1,95,000
Bhatin	42,000
Narwahpahar	3,00,000
Turamdih	2,25,000
Banduhurang	7,20,000

Generation of atomic energy

†1087. SHRI RAMJETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has become successful in generating atomic energy by developing thorium technique;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the quantity of total reserves of thorium ascertained in India till now and quantum of power which can be generated thereby in the country?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.