

US Science and Technology Endowment Fund and Board Agreement, were signed during the visit of the U.S. Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Clinton from 17-21 July, 2009.

The Technology Safeguards Agreement will permit the launch of civil or non-commercial satellites containing US components on Indian Space Launch Vehicles.

The S & T Agreement seeks to establish an India - U.S.A. Board and an Endowment for developing Joint Research and Development, Innovation, Entrepreneurial and Commercialization Activities in Science and Technology.

The Agreement will substantiate the aims and objectives of the India-U.S.A. Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation signed in October, 2005.

The two sides also agreed to a formulation on End Use Monitoring (EUM) to be included in Letters of Offer and Acceptance for acquisition of defence articles and equipped to be acquired by the Government of India from the U.S. Government.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Generation of thorium based nuclear energy

3501.SHRI SHYAM LAL CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has any plan of generating thorium based nuclear energy;
- (b) the total amount of thorium reserve in our country;
- (c) the concrete planning for extraction of thorium; and
- (d) the estimated time of extraction of thorium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) India has 10.21 Million Tonnes of Monazite from which 9,18,900 Tonnes Thorium Oxide (ThO₂) can be obtained.
- (c) and (d) Extraction of Monazite as by-product from limenite mining is being done by M/s Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) in Kerala and Tamil Nadu; M/s Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited (KMML) in Kerala; and Orissa Sands Complex (OSCOM) in Orissa. Sufficient quantity of Thorium has been stockpiled for future use.

Survey of Himalayan Rivers

†3502.SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA :

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that information has been received recently about meeting of icy peaks located at Gangotri and their melting is at satisfactory level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.