

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.

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## 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 (ThO<sub>2</sub>) can be obtained.

(c) and (d) Extraction of Monazite as by-product from limonite 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;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it has been decided to undertake a new survey in regard to the originating points of other Himalayan rivers on the lines of Gangotri; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :  
(a) and (b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has informed that GSI is not carrying out any work on Gangotri since 1996. GSI has, however, observed that recent reports have shown that the Gangotri glacier has been melting at satisfactory level. Further, National Institute of Hydrology has carried out research studies and the analysis of flow data observed by the institute for the period from the year 2000 to 2008 does not indicate any definite trend.

(c) GSI has informed that has been decided to undertake new surveys in regard to originating points of other Himalayan rivers.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Energy generation projects

†3503. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided so far to set up only two atomic energy generation projects;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether the basic blueprint has been drawn for these projects;

(c) if so, the estimated expenditure in regard to setting up the project and amount of foreign capital therein; and

(d) the average production cost of the energy generated in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :  
(a) and (b) Proposals for setting up of two nuclear power projects - KAPP 3&4 (2×700 MWe) at Kakrapar in Gujarat and RAPP 7&8 (2×700 MWe) at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan are under the consideration of the Government. No decision has been taken in this regard.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Location for Nuclear Reactors

3504. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized location for \$150 bn. US nuclear power reactor promised to Washington during negotiations for ending India's isolation from global nuclear commerce;

(b) whether any final decision for finalizing sites for US origin nuclear reactors has been finalized; and

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