

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Centre is finalizing a proposal for setting up of an Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) to assess the outcomes and impact of the major flagship programmes of Government of India.

(b) and (c) In the recent 2010-2011 Budget Speech, the Finance Minister has mentioned, "The Government had announced the setting-up an Independent Evaluation Office to undertake impartial and objective assessments of the various public programmes and improve the effectiveness of the public interventions. It has been decided that it would be an independent entity under a Governing board chaired by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The IEO would evaluate the impact of flagship programmes and place the findings in the public domain. It would be funded by the Planning Commission".

#### **Use of thorium for nuclear power production**

†1516. SHRI SHREE GOPAL VYAS :

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the status of use of thorium in obtaining of atomic energy;
- (b) the target fixed in Eleventh Five Year Plan with regard thereto; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has set up a research reactor KAMINI at Kalpakkam using Uranium-223 fuel obtained from irradiated Thorium which is operating since 1996. DAE has developed the design for a 300 MWe Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) to generate most of its power from Thorium based fuel, as a demonstrator for Thorium related technologies.

(b) and (c) During XI Five Year Plan, a range of activities pertaining to systems and technologies relevant for Thorium utilisation have been taken up. The design and development of main nuclear systems of AHWR have been completed. Large scale engineering experiments for the simulation of important thermal hydraulic parameters of its natural circulation driven cooling system have led to a better understanding of various associated phenomena.

#### **Shortage of uranium for nuclear reactors**

†1517. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether only three out of India's seventeen nuclear reactors are working to their full capacity due to critical shortage of indigenously produced uranium;
- (b) whether the three working reactors source their supplies of uranium from abroad especially France;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi