

by the Department in September, 2005, selected some sites in Andhra Pradesh to set up nuclear power plants;

(b) if so, the details of sites identified by the Site Selection Committee;

(c) whether the assessment of the sites offered by the State of Andhra Pradesh has been done by the Site Selection Committee; and

(d) the rehabilitation package in the case of selection of the site, that Government provide to the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The Site Selection Committee is presently evaluating the sites offered by the coastal states in the country. A site in Srikakulam district offered by the Government of Andhra Pradesh is under evaluation.

(d) The site selection by the Site Selection Committee is only first step of the site selection process. After recommendation by the Site Selection Committee, the sites have to be approved by the Government. In the event construction of the project is taken up, a rehabilitation package, as decided by the State Government will be implemented by the State Government. The expenditure towards implementation of the package will be borne by the project authorities.

Thorium Reserves

2106. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated quantity of thorium reserves available in our country;

(b) the names of the Indian States where such reserves are located;

(c) whether India has any plan to generate power using thorium instead of Uranium;

(d) if so, its details thereof and the target of nuclear power generation achieved during the year 2005-06; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

[17 August, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The total Thorium Resources identified by the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research, and constituent unit under this Department, are 7.99 Million Tonnes.

(b) These resources are contained in the mineral monazite associated with beach sand placers along the eastern and western coasts of the country as well as in the inland placers of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Jharkhand.

(c) India is pursuing a three stage nuclear power generation programme aimed at long term energy independence based on use of our abundant Thorium resources. The programme is to use Thorium for electricity generation in the long-term. In order to realize this goal, we are well into the first stage based on our modest domestic Uranium resources. This will be followed by second stage comprising of fast reactors which can support a large power generation capacity before getting into the third stage. Thorium in itself can not produce electricity and it has to be first converted to Uranium²³³ in a nuclear reactor. A comprehensive three-stage nuclear power programme is therefore being implemented sequentially.

(d) The third-state system (Thorium reactors) will be deployed after a sizeable second stage capacity is in operation. The nuclear power generation during the year 2005-06 was 17324 million units (MUs) against a target to 15560 MUs. This is based on use of Uranium in the first stage of the three stage Nuclear Power Programme.

(e) Not applicable in view of (c) and (d) above.

**Partnership with foreign and Private Companies to increase coal
Production**

†2107. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign companies have become a necessity in order to increase coal production in the country now;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.