

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the nuclear fuel purchased under this agreement include ownership right or Government has only reprocessing right; and

(d) whether country would have to repay for reprocessing of nuclear fuel?

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

(a) to (b) Article 6(iii) of the Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, *inter-alia*, States that India agreed to establish a new national reprocessing facility dedicated to reprocessing safeguarded nuclear material under IAEA safeguards. Article 6(iii) of the Agreement calls for consultations on arrangements and procedures within one year.

In March, 2009 the US responded to India's request invoking Article 6(iii) of the Indo-US agreement on Arrangements and Procedures confirming that the first round of formal consultations, would commence no later than 3 August, 2009 and that final agreement on Arrangements and Procedures is to be reached no later than 3 August, 2010. The text has been finalized in the last round of negotiations held from 2-4 March 2010 and signed in Washington on 30 July, 2010. The Arrangements and Procedures will enter into force after completion of necessary formalities.

(c) and (d) No nuclear fuel has been purchased from USA so far under the above agreement.

#### **Activities of Indian Rare Earths**

2729. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the major activities of Indian Rare Earths (IRE) units situated in Kollam, Kerala;

(b) the total income of IRE from sand mining from Kerala operations;

(c) whether Government has studied about the value added products which can be developed from this sand;

(d) if so, the details of the products; and

(e) whether Government would start production units to develop value added products from rare earth available in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):  
(a) Indian Rare Earths, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) produces limonite, rutile, leucoxene, zircon, sillimanite etc. in their minerologically pure marketable forms from beach sand in its unit situated in Kollam, Kerala. Part of the Zircon is used for production of zirflour which is used in ceramic industry.

(b) Total income from IRE sand mining from Kerala operation was Rs.9267.14 lakh in the year 2009-10.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The value added products which can be produced from limonite are synthetic rutile, titanium slag, titanium sponge, titanium pigment and various titanium chemicals. Rutile and leucoxene can be used directly to produce titanium sponge, titanium pigment and various titanium chemicals. The value added products that can be produced from Zircon are zirflour, microzir, zirconium metal and various zirconium chemicals.

(e) Yes, Sir.

#### **Protection of scientists**

2730. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that scientists from Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant are abducted and killed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to protect the scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):  
(a) and (b) There is no incident of abduction or killing any scientist of Madras Atomic Power Station, Kalpakkam.