setting up of the LHC facility and subsequently in the collection and analyses of experimental data arising therefrom, thus contributing significantly to the discovery.

Vessel supplied by the vendor for Nuclear Power Plant

627. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reactor pressure vessel supplied by the vendor to the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant was found to be of an obsolete model developed in early 1980s and whether the pressure vessel has two welds while the international safety parameters require that there should be no welds in the pressure vessel; and

(b) if so, the reason why this pressure vessel was accepted with its possible proneness to accident and what precautionary measures have been taken to prevent any loss of life and property of nearly 1.5 million people living within a radius of 30 km. from the plant in case of an accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir. The Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Reactors employs state-of-the-art technology. The use of specific configuration of welded joints in the fabrication of Kudankulam reactor Pressure Vessel is consistent with existing practice and meets the laid down requirements of internationally accepted pressure vessel design codes.

The materials used in the forgings and welds of the RPV of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Reactors minimize radiation embrittlement. The robustness of these materials has been established by scientific and engineering tests. The design, materials and configuration of the RPV were approved by the regulatory authorities, both in the Russian Federation and in India (the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board) after extensive review.

(b) Does not arise.

Uranium resources in the country

628. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has the highest uranium resources in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) by when the above reserves have been discovered; and

(d) what efforts Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research is making to explore the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. The survey and exploration for uranium carried

out by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has led to the identification of 93,492 tonnes of *in-situ* uranium oxide (U_3O_8) in parts of Andhra Pradesh as on June, 2012, which forms 50.69% of the total *in-situ* reserves identified so far in India.

(b) The details of *in-situ* reserves of uranium identified in Andhra Pradesh are as given below:—

District	Name of the deposit	Uranium resources established (tonnes U_3O_8)
Cuddapah	Tummalapalle-Rachakuntapalle	72,181
Nalgonda	Lambapur	1,450
	Peddagattu	7,585
	Chitrial	9,515
Guntur	Koppunuru	2,761
	TOTAL:	93,492

(c) The uranium mineralisation at Tummalapalle — Rachakuntapalle was discovered in 1986. The mineralisation at Lambapur was discovered in 1991. The mineralisation at Peddagattu, Chitrial and Koppunuru were discovered in 1993, 1995 and 1997 respectively.

(d) AMD has already made exploration to prove additional resources in the area in extension blocks.

Commercial operation of Kudankulam Unit

629. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kudankulam 3 and 4 units are expected to be commissioned and start commercial operation by August this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the concerns expressed by the local population on the projects has been resolved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Construction of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, Units 3 and 4 has not started.