

meeting the industrial and potable drinking water requirements for OSCOM unit of IREL.

(c) The project has been sanctioned in March, 2013. Scheduled completion date of the project is 31.03.2019.

Steps to improve energy generation

3258. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that energy generation and capacity utilization of our atomic plants is below world average plant-wise;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve our generation to match with world average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The capacity utilisation of nuclear power plants fuelled by imported uranium, which is available in the required quantity, is at par with the world average. The nuclear power plants fuelled by indigenous uranium have slightly lower capacity utilisation due to non-availability of required quantity of indigenous uranium.

(c) The Government has taken steps to augment supply of indigenous uranium by opening of new mines and processing facilities. This has led to improvement in capacity utilisation of reactors fuelled by indigenous uranium.

Thorium deposits in Manavalakurichi in Tamil Nadu

3259. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Manavalakurichi in Southern Tamil Nadu is home to world's 30 per cent Thorium deposits;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 96 out of 111 licences for mining garnet have been given to one company/person;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has issued 44 licences for mining ilmenite and all 44 have been given to one individual/firm;