

period 1952 to 2004, IREL has processed Monazite to produce Rare Earths compounds. In 2004, this has stopped due to lack of market, as materials from another Asian country became available at a much lower cost. Recently IREL has set up a plant at Orissa Sand Complex (OSCOM), Odisha to process 10000 tonnes of Monazite per annum. IREL has set up a facility at its Rare Earths Division, Alwaye, Kerala, to produce Separated High Purity Rare Earth utilising mixed rare earth chloride produced from Monazite processing plant at Odisha.

#### **Allocation of gas to Nedunuru Power Plant, Telangana**

421. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in spite of repeated requests and demands for allocating gas to Nedunuru Power Plant in Karimnagar district of Telangana State, no action has been taken by Government;
- (b) the constraints Government is facing in allocating gas to the above plant; and
- (c) how it is planning to face and resolve those constraints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Nedunur gas based power plant has a requirement of 9.72 MMSCMD of gas. Due to limited availability of domestic gas, Ministry of Power recommended for allocation of 2.8 MMSCMD of gas for 700 MW (Phase-I) of Nedunur gas based power project. The proposal for supply of gas to Nedunur gas based power project was placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) in the meeting held on 24.2.2012. The EGoM noted the requirement of the project. However, no direction was issued in this regard.

Further, EGoM in its meeting held on 23.8.2013 has decided to maintain the level of supplies of domestic gas to fertilizer sector at 31.5 MMSCMD and give the sector first priority in meeting the shortfall below the level of 31.5 MMSCMD, from any additional production of NELP gas. It was also decided that after meeting the supply level of 31.5 MMSCMD to fertilizer sector, the entire additional NELP gas production, available during the years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, be supplied to power sector. Based on the projections on availability of domestic gas, the same is not likely to increase substantially till 2016-17. As such, the Nedunur gas based power plant may have to rely on imported RLNG to meet its gas requirement.