

The resources of xenotime, another rare-earth bearing mineral, are negligible in India. AMD has established about 2000 tonnes of xenotime-bearing heavy mineral concentrate containing 2% xenotime in the riverine heavy mineral placer deposits of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

(c) Monazite is a mineral mainly containing rare earths and thorium—a prescribed substance to be handled by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Accordingly, Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL) wholly owned by the Government of India, under the administrative control of the Deptt. of Atomic Energy (DAE) utilises monazite mainly for production of rare earth compounds, and thorium, as needed in the Department of Atomic Energy.

Dense population around Narora Atomic Power Plant

†468. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study has found Narora Atomic Power Plant in high risk category due to dense population around the plant, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action plan Government proposes to chalk out in view of the findings of these study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Thorium reserves in country

469. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has reserves of thorium in sufficient quantity as compared to other parts of world:

(b) if so, the details of thorium reserves identified in India, its volume and estimated generation of power through these reserves;

(c) whether thorium as a fuel for power generation has more advantages than Uranium; and

(d) whether Government is considering promoting thorium based plants to overcome power crisis?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.