

**Building of insurance pool**

1227. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposes to build an insurance pool to indemnify global nuclear suppliers against liability in case of nuclear accident, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a high level civil nuclear conference was held recently in New Delhi in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government on the suggestions made/decisions taken in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No Sir. However, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in coordination with Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance is considering a proposal for developing an appropriate insurance product by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) to provide an insurance cover for the liability arising out of, and mandated by, the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages (CLND) Act, 2010. Such insurance product is intended for the benefit of the operators of nuclear power plants as well as suppliers (both domestic and foreign).

(b) The General Insurance Corporation of India have conducted an international workshop in New Delhi on 20th March 2015 to take inputs from various stakeholders as well as clarify their doubts in the context of development of an appropriate insurance product to cover the liability under CLND Act.

(c) No suggestions have been received or decisions taken in the above workshop which has been mainly in the nature of an exercise to clarify the doubts to the stake-holders in this regard.

**Production of Rare Earth Element**

1228. SHRI AVINASH PANDE : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total volume of production of each type of Rare Earth Element (REE) in India over the past three years;

(b) the proportion of this production that has been exported by India over the last three years; and

(c) the country-wise breakup of REEs thus exported and the share of Japan in the total exports of REEs from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) There are a total of 17 Rare Earth Elements in Nature. These are: Cerium, Lanthanum, Praeseodymium, and Neodymium (4, which are commonly referred to as “lighter rare earth elements”); and Scandium, Yttrium, Gadolinium, Samarium, Europium, Promethium, Terbium, Ytterbium, Erbium, Holmium, Lutetium, Dysprosium, and Thulium (13, referred to as ‘heavier rare earth elements’). Monazite is the only commercial mineral source of extraction and production of rare earths in India. Countries such as China, USA and Indonesia which are major rare earths producing countries now, produce Rare Earths from mineral sources such as bastnaesite, xenotime, and ion-absorption clay. While production of rare earths from Monazite, which is the only source of rare earths in India, yields materials such as Uranium and Thorium (which are radioactive) in the process of separation of Rare Earths, the mineral sources for Rare Earths in China, USA, and Indonesia, *i.e.* bastnaesite, xenotime and ion-absorption clay are non radioactive. These minerals are not available in India in commercially exploitable quantities. Further, since separation of Rare Earths from Monazite (which is abundantly available in certain coastal areas of India) yields Uranium and Thorium which are “prescribed substances” under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, only the Department of Atomic Energy PSU, Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) has been entrusted with the responsibility of production of Rare Earths in the country through processing of Monazite. The details of production of Rare Earths by IREL over the past three years (Qty in metric tons) are as follows:

Type of Rare Earth	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total for 3 Years
Lanthanum Compounds	65.662	0.438	16.723	82.823
Other Rare Earth Compounds*	0.000	0.000	17.479	17.479
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65.662</b>	<b>0.438</b>	<b>34.202</b>	<b>100.302</b>

\* Other Rare Earth Compounds include (i) Cerium Compounds – 8.447 tons (ii) Samarium Compounds – 9.032 tons

(b) and (c) There was no export of Rare Earth Elements by IREL, the only domestic producer of Rare Earths using Indian mineral resources over the last three years.

#### **Production and export of Rare Earth Elements**

1229. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of agreements for cooperation between India and Japan in the production and export of Rare Earth Elements from India; and