

for construction of additional silos, large built up of inventory of thorium concentrate, structural deterioration of three silos and its proximity to Perier river along with associated environmental problems, monazite processing at RED was discontinued in the year 2004. During the above period about 1.46 lakh tons of Monazite was processed in the plant. Thorium values generated have been stockpiled in silos and RCC trenches on behalf of the Government of India for future use in the third stage nuclear power program of the country. The current stock pile is estimated to be nearly 8000 tons of Thorium. Indigenous efforts towards development and demonstration of Thorium-based reactor technology are in experimental stage. A 300 MWe Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) using thorium based fuel has been designed and developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. This reactor will serve as a technology demonstrator for the thorium fuel cycle technologies. This reactor requires, for its operation at full power, nearly ten tons of thorium per year. Hence considering the availability of thorium in the country there is no specific necessity of boosting production of Thorium at this stage.

Electricity for Tamil Nadu from Kudankulam Power Plant

2. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand from the State of Tamil Nadu to allocate more electricity from Kudankulam nuclear power plant-1 to it out of the total 1000 MW electricity produced; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) A request from the Government of Tamil Nadu for allocation of additional power to be generated from Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) Units 1&2 was received in the Ministry of Power. Government of Tamil Nadu was informed that power had already been allocated from KKNPP (2 X 1000 MW) amongst the beneficiary States/Union Territory including Tamil Nadu based on the guidelines for allocation of power from Central Sector Generating Stations. However, an additional 200 MW of unallocated power out of the total 300 MW of unallocated power from KKNPP has been allocated to Tamil Nadu from the date of commercial operation of the units, in addition to 925 MW already allocated on the firm basis to Tamil Nadu.

States/UTs share in atomic energy

3. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central and States/UTs share in nuclear power generated in the country; and