

**Low investment in production of nuclear energy**

1122. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that investment being made on production of nuclear energy is low compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the details for the last two years and this year, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase allocation/investment on production of nuclear energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Investment in nuclear power sector in any country is country specific and depends on the individual country's overall status of atomic research programme, availability of resources and policies relating to nuclear power. Adequate investment is being made on production of nuclear energy in India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

**Acute shortage of uranium**

1123. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps which Government is considering to overcome the acute shortage of uranium deposit in the country;

(b) whether it is high time to vigorously make efforts to explore new uranium deposits in the country; and

(c) the steps which are being taken to face the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Consequent upon signing of Civil Nuclear Cooperation, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has been importing Uranium Ore to meet the Fuel requirements of Safeguarded Nuclear Reactors which are open for inspection by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Accordingly, contractual Agreements were entered into with the following organisations/countries:

(1) M/s. AREVA, France.

(2) M/s. JSC TVEL Corporation, Russia.

(3) M/s. NAC Kazatomprom, Kazakhstan.

(4) M/s. Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Combinat State Company, (NMMC), Uzbekistan.

(5) M/s CAMECO, Canada.