

Rich minerals in seashore of Tamil Nadu

801. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that rich minerals are available on the seashore of Tamil Nadu especially in the Southern parts of the State;
- (b) if so, the names of minerals that are used for atomic energy;
- (c) whether the mineral sand at seashore is illegally exported;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken to ban such illegal export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) The minerals that are used for atomic energy are zircon and monazite.
- (c) Even though there were some media reports, no instances of illegal export of mineral sands at sea-shore have been noticed.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Mechanism to dispose of nuclear waste

802. SHRI R. VAITHLINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of nuclear waste generated by nuclear power plants during the last three years, plant-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the mechanism put in place to dispose of such waste safely;
- (c) the extent to which the technology used is effective and efficient;
- (d) whether Government has drawn any plan to build underground repository for storing nuclear waste with latest technology and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government has undertaken such a programme with the support of any foreign countries and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The quantity of low and intermediate level waste to be stored at the site is about 0.15 cubic meters/year/MW.

- (b) A comprehensive radioactive waste management system is established taking