WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Commissioning of nuclear power reactors

481. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set any timeline for commissioning the 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor at Kakrapar Nuclear Plant in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has fixed any time schedule for commissioning of other nuclear plants in the country for next five years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and also the quantum of additional power that would be generated from the planned nuclear power plants for commercial use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The first 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor at Kakrapar, Gujarat, KAPP-3 has already achieved First Criticality (Controlled self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction for the first time) on July 22, 2020. The commissioning and operationalisation of the unit is expected by November, 2020. The commissioning and operationalisation of its twin unit, KAPP-4 is expected one year after the first unit.

(c) and (d) In the next five years, five more nuclear power plants, *i.e.*, RAPP 7 and 8 (2X700 MW) at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan, KKNPP 3 and 4 (2X1000 MW) at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu being implemented by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) being implemented by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) are scheduled to be commissioned and operationalised progressively by 2024, adding 3900 MW of nuclear power capacity.

Exploration to locate Lithium ore in the country

482. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atomic Minerals Directorate has located Lithium deposits near Bengaluru recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has given priority towards exploration of Lithium deposits in different parts of the country considering huge domestic requirements of Lithium, not only for the present but also for the future, as per the commitment that by 2030 fossil fuel operated vehicles would be phased out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, including the potential regions where possibility of Lithium deposits exists?

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

(b) Preliminary surveys on surface and limited subsurface exploration by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a Constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) have shown presence of Lithium resources of 1,600 tonnes (inferred category) in the pegmatites of Marlagalla - Allapatna area, Mandya district, Karnataka.

(c) AMD, as part of its mandate, is carrying out exploration to augment Lithium resources in the potential geological domains of the country.

(d) The potential geological domains for exploration to augment Lithium resources in the country include:-

(i) The Marlagalla - Allapatna area, Mandya district, Karnataka, along the Nagmangla Schist Belt, which exposes mineralised complex pegmatites, is one of the potential geological domains in the country for hosting rare metals mineralisation including Lithium.

(ii) Lithium is also recovered from brines located in playa areas (saline water bodies in arid climate regions) worldwide. Brines of Sambhar and Pachpadra playas, Rajasthan and Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat are some of the potential geographic domains.

(iii) The major mica belts located in Rajasthan, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, Pegmatite belts in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka are the other potential geological domains of the country.

Share of Huawei and ZTE in telecom market

483. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has banned purchasing telecom gears from Chinese companies;