

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1122
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2021

**HIGH LEVEL CONCENTRATION OF URANIUM IN BOREWELLS OF
KADAPA BASIN OF ANDHRA PRADESH**

1122 Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a high level of concentration has been detected in borewells of Kadapa Basin of Nalgonda district which is well known for Uranium deposits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (C) The immediate action taken to restrict people on the consumption of water of the borewells?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES &
PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

- (a) (b) & (c) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy collects environmental baseline data around the uranium deposits, before mining is taken up. This includes collection of background radiation, ground water and soil samples.

As a part of environmental baseline data collection around the Lambapur – Peddagattu region, Nalgonda district, Telangana, in the northern part of Cuddapah basin, AMD has collected ground water samples from 25 private tube wells / hand pumps, from November, 2018 to July, 2019.

Out of the 25 samples, four are from hand pumps used for domestic purposes and rest 21 are all from tube wells used for irrigation purposes. The four hand pump sample locations, from which the water is used for domestic purposes, have analysed uranium values in the range of 6 to 48ppb uranium which is below the prescribed safety limit (60ppb) by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The uranium values in the 21 sample locations vary from 1-2,618ppb. Thirteen out of the twenty-five samples have analysed uranium content of <60ppb, which is prescribed safety limit by AERB. AMD has suspended all the uranium exploration activities in the State of Telangana.

AMD shares the analytical data of groundwater samples in the various State Geological Programming Board meetings conducted by state Governments. In addition to this, AMD has already communicated analytical data of ground water of entire Telangana state to the Ground water Department, Government of Telangana on their request.
