

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3834
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
SEIZURE OF URANIUM
DUMPA MARY VIJAYAKUMARI

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 26 kg. of radioactive uranium worth several crores of rupees was recovered from a gang of smugglers in Hyderabad;
- (b) if so, from where this uranium was brought by the culprits and where it was to be sent for used;
- (c) the actual value of the material and the number of persons were involved in this nefarious act; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that uranium does not find way to unscrupulous elements?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE)

- (a) to (c) Twenty-six kg. of depleted uranium was recovered at Hyderabad. The cost of the material is approximately US \$1820 (approximately equivalent to Indian Rupees eighty five thousand one hundred and three). Detailed investigations are still being carried out by the Hyderabad Police as regards the origin of this uranium, the number of persons involved and what was proposed to be done with it.
- (d) All hospitals and industrial radiography institutions importing such equipment containing depleted uranium are required to obtain licences from the Department of Atomic Energy. The mandatory requirement is that all authorised users should send the depleted uranium from the decommissioned radiation equipment to BARC for safe disposal. All users have been informed again for the mandatory requirement to send the parts of decommissioned teletherapy equipment containing depleted uranium for safe disposal at BARC.