

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ATOMIC ENERGY  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:156  
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003  
HEAVY WATER REACTOR PROJECT  
RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA;Y.G. MAHAJAN

**Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed the design of the Heavy Water Reactor Project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the benefits likely to accrue from the above project?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MOS IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ADDITIONAL CHARGE) – SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed the design of a 300 MWe Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR). This reactor will be mainly utilising thorium as nuclear fuel for about two-thirds of its electricity generation. A detailed project report incorporating the major highlights of design, safety and other related aspects for this reactor has been completed and is under peer review.

(c) The Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) with a capacity of 300 MWe when fully developed as a technology demonstration project will facilitate start of utilisation of vast thorium reserves in the country for electricity generation.