

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:320
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
POLICY FOR URANIUM EXPLORATION
Masood Shri Rasheed

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any new policy to explore uranium deposits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also formulated any policy for usage of atomic energy to meet the energy requirement of the country, and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) A decision in the Department of Atomic Energy has been taken for outsourcing Uranium Exploration.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) The development of nuclear power in the country is based on the objectives of complementing the electricity generation at locations away from coal mines in the short and medium terms and to utilize the vast resources of thorium for electricity generation in the long term. This is on account of the country's nuclear resource profile of modest reserves of uranium and large reserves of thorium. Light Water reactors based on imports, to enable faster nuclear power capacity addition in the short term, have also been introduced as additionality.