

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION 1316

Mr P van Dalen (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:

- 1) Whether she intends adding any extra power supply that is generated by the Pelindaba power station to the national grid if the power station runs at its optimal capacity; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- 2) Whether she intends entering into a power purchase agreement with the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa) in terms of which the Pelindaba power station is required to supply power during the peak demand period until the national grid has stabilised; if not, why not; if so, how (a) much power is envisaged to be added to the national grid, (b) will this agreement secure the supply of energy, (c) much power can Pelindaba power station generate and (d) much electricity is required daily to enrich the uranium supply for medical and other uses;
- 3) Whether Pelindaba power station has become obsolete after discontinuing the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor project; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NW1459E

REPLY

- 1) The reactor at Pelindaba is a Materials Test Reactor (MTR). It is not an electricity generating reactor but it is used for research and irradiation services and as a result it does not provide any power to the grid.
- 2) There is no intention to enter into a power purchase agreement with Necsa.
- 3) The research reactor at Necsa has not become obsolete. It continues to be used for research and irradiation services.