

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES QUESTION 493

Mr K A Sinclair (COPE-NC) to ask the Minister of Energy:

- (1) Whether South Africa enriches its own uranium for use in nuclear power generation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) Whether the Government has any plans to introduce uranium enrichment in order to supply our nuclear power generation capacity; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) How will the development of such enrichment capacity affect long-term supply contracts that were signed with suppliers? CW595E

REPLY

- (1) South Africa does not enrich its own uranium for power generation. Enrichment services are provided by international companies, i.e. Tenex, Urenco and Areva.
- (2) The Nuclear Energy Policy of 2008 outlines government's intention to implement or obtain interests in the complete nuclear fuel cycle. This will be done to make sure that the nuclear programme is sustainable and that economic benefits accrue to South Africa.
- (3) There will be no effect on any contract as we currently do not have any long term agreements signed with any of the suppliers.