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India can be largest supplier of tritium: Kakodkar

Agencies Posted: Feb 17, 2009 at 1702 hrs IST

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Mumbai: India can be the largest supplier of tritium for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Anil Kakodkar said on Tuesday.

"Although we suffered a shortage of uranium, we are surplus in heavy water production and thus we can be the world supplier in tritium, which is crucial for the world's first fusion experimental reactor (ITER), in which India has an important role," Kakodkar said, on the occasion of 'Heavy Water Day' at Anushakti Nagar in Mumbai.

He also asked the Heavy Water Board, an arm of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) to be prepared for marketing one of its new ventures on Enriched Boron that will be used in Fast Breeder Reactors.

The Heavy Water Board has diversified into a variety of products and some of these are at the Research and Development stage while some are in the production stage including that of enriched Boron, sodium metal, oxygen 18 and several specialised solvents.

"After surplus production of heavy water, we may suffer a problem of plenty in case of Enriched Boron too," Kakodkar said adding, "India has enough Enriched Boron for the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor that is coming up in Kalpakkam.

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