

## Atomic Power Station

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 \*1922. { Shri D. C. Sharma:  
 Shri Keshava:  
 Shri Rameshwar Tantis:  
 Shri S. A. Mehdi:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1255 on the 9th September, 1959 and state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the establishment of the first Atomic Power Station;

(b) if so, when and where it will be set up; and

(c) what will be its cost and capacity to generate power?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Considerable progress has been made in the matter of site selection for the proposed atomic power station. However, before a final decision about the site can be taken, a number of investigations such as hydrographic surveys, aerial surveys, sub-soil investigations etc. have to be completed and the economic assessment of developing the alternative sites would have to be made. This work is in progress and it is expected that a final decision on the site would be taken by March 1960.

(c) The earlier decision with regard to the capacity was that it would be 250,000 kw with only one reactor supplying the whole of this power. The question whether the station should consist of one 250 MW reactor unit or two 150 MW reactor units is under examination. The final decision is expected to be taken very soon in consultation with the Planning Commission.

The earlier estimated cost of Rs. 1,700 per kw of installed capacity is still expected to hold good.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how long it will take for this station to function after the site has been

selected and the reactors and other things have been put up?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I could not say exactly; I imagine about three years.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether Government propose to invite any foreign collaboration for this proposed atomic power station and if so, what is the proposed component of the foreign collaboration?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not quite know what type of foreign collaboration the hon. Member is thinking it terms of. But we are receiving co-operative help in various ways in regard to the development of atomic energy from a number of countries—the United Kingdom, the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union. But that is, of course, general. Specifically about a particular plant, I cannot say at this stage.

Shri T. E. Vittal Rao: Originally it was planned to establish the atomic power station somewhere between Cambay and Ahmedabad. May I know why alternative sites are taken into consideration now, in view of the fact that the original selection was made because it was far away from the fuel resources and coal-mining areas?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No original selection was finally made at any time. Various sites have been mentioned and among them the sites which the hon. Member has referred to. But that has not been finalised. Also, there may be the question of erecting more than one atomic power station.

Shri Goray: In view of the fact that in England, they are having second thoughts about developing power from atomic stations, is this decision likely to be revised or changed?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As a matter of fact, we considered it again and again and only very recently the whole matter was discussed very fully abroad in some conference on atomic energy

in England and America. It was found that putting up an atomic power station in India was roughly 20 per cent. cheaper than in the western countries, because of costs, etc. The actual cost of the electric power would be comparable to the present; it just depends on how far you put it. If you put up such a station at Jharia, it will be very expensive because coal is there. But if you put it up in the large tracts of Rajasthan or in Western India, then it becomes competitive. It should be remembered also that this is the present position. It goes on improving. From our point of view, it is important that we should start, so that we may gain experience in course of time. Otherwise, we will be left behind at a later stage.

**Shri Palaniyandy:** Do Government have any proposal to have any atomic station in the southern region, as in Madras?

**Mr. Speaker:** They are all being considered

**Shri Goray:** May I know whether this power station would be of the breeder type or some other type creating its own fuel?

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Or the swimming pool type?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** That comes at a later stage, I believe. You have to start with some fuel which has been already obtained from somewhere. Later on it starts generating its own fuel.

**Shri Tangamani:** May I know whether Government have made any estimate of the foreign exchange component that will be necessary for importing machinery for this station?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Yes, Sir; very detailed estimates have been made. As a matter of fact, Dr. Bhabha, in his address to the Members of Parliament, has gone into the matter. I am sorry I cannot keep all these figures in my mind. But the real foreign exchange component is the fuel element which we have to obtain to begin with from outside.

**Shri N. E. Maniswamy:** While expanding the atomic power stations, has the Government an eye on the necessary requirements of thorium and uranium?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** That, of course, is a very basic thing to be kept in mind.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question. **Shri Pangarkar;** absent.

**Shri Khushwaqt Rai:** 1023.

**An Hon. Member:** There are other names before his.

**Mr. Speaker:** Any hon. Member, whose name is in the list, can rise and put the question. I will give opportunity to put supplementaries to all of them.

### Third Five Year Plan

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Shri Panigrahi:  
Shri Pangarkar:  
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:  
Pandit D. N. Tiwari:  
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
Shri Khushwaqt Rai:  
Shri Hem Barua:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:  
\*1023. Shri Harish Chandra  
Mathur:  
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:  
Shri V. P. Nayar:  
Shri Rameshwar Tanti:  
Shri Narayanankutty  
Menon:  
Shri Bangshi Thakur:  
Shri Dasaratha Deb:  
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:  
Kumari M. Vedakumari:  
Shri L. Achaw Singh:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 165 on the 6th August, 1959 and state the further progress made so far in regard to the formation of the Third Five Year Plan?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): During September and October, the