

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3349
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023

Fast Breeder Reactor

3349. MS. S. JOTHIMANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the project of Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) in Kalpakkam has been completed, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether there are any potential risks to the lives of the people residing in the areas nearer to the FBR and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any preventive measures to ensure the safety of the people in the nearby areas of the FBR, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of jobs that will be created once the FBR is in place; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plans to provide the required skills to the people of Tamil Nadu to operate in the field, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS
AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

- (a) Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI) has constructed a 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. At present, it is in the advanced stage of integrated commissioning. PFBR is a first of a kind reactor with liquid sodium as coolant. The project has faced delays due to first of kind technological challenges which are being addressed systematically.
- (b) No Sir. There is no potential risk to the lives of the people residing in the areas nearer to the PFBR. A detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the PFBR project did not indicate any adverse impact to the environment and to the nearby public.

- (c) Highest priority is accorded to safety in all aspects of nuclear power viz. siting, design, construction, commissioning and operation. Nuclear power plants are designed based on the paramount safety principles of Defence in depth, Redundancy, Diversity and Fail-safe design features; thus, ensuring multiple barriers between the source of radioactivity and the environment. The operations are performed through well laid out procedures by highly qualified, trained & licensed personnel.

- (d) PFBR has created direct employment to about 450 people during construction, commissioning and operation phase of the reactor. Apart from this, it has created indirect employment for about 6000 people through contractors, vendors and consultants in the field of construction, manufacturing, fabrication, erection and quality assurance.

- (e) Yes Sir. In compliance with the National Apprentice Promotion Scheme, apprentices from various trades are regularly recruited for imparting skills in their respective fields.
