

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1767
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2023

Inspection of Nuclear Facilities

1767. DR. SATYAPAL SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government conducts regular regulatory inspection of nuclear, industrial and radiation facilities;
- b) if so, the details thereof and the number of inspections carried out by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- c) the number of diagnostic laboratories hospitals which have been found to be violating the provisions of the regulatory provision/licensing requirements, State-wise and year-wise; and
- d) the steps taken by the Government to further strengthen regulatory requirements?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) conducts Regulatory Inspections (RI) of Nuclear, Industrial and Radiation Facilities to ensure that the activities performed by the Licensee during all the phases viz. siting, design, construction, commissioning, operation, decommissioning, and release from regulatory control of the life cycle of the Facilities are executed in compliance with the conditions of the License and relevant safety requirements. The number of inspections carried out by AERB during the last three years and the current year, year-wise are given below:

Type of Facilities	2020	2021	2022	2023
Nuclear & Industrial Facilities	74	96	124	126
Radiation Facilities	440	758	912	771

(c) 853 diagnostic laboratories hospitals were inspected during the period 2020-2023. 495 facilities were found to be deviating from certain regulatory provisions or licensing requirements. AERB follows a graded approach in determining the safety significance of the deviations observed during the regulatory inspections of nuclear and radiation facilities. There were no deviations of high safety significance observed during these inspections. State-wise and year-wise number of such facilities which have been found deviating from certain provisions of the regulatory or licensing requirements is placed at Annexure-I.

(d) AERB develops and lays down safety requirements and guidance for utilities and users in form of Regulatory Safety Documents. Regulatory safety documents are issued under provisions of Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004. The regulatory safety documents are developed with a view to cover the entire spectrum of regulated nuclear and radiation facilities and activities, as applicable, with graded approach.

New regulatory safety documents are developed or existing documents are revised on the basis of technological advances, changes in international state of art, research and development work, relevant operational lessons learned and institutional knowledge. AERB has an established process for development, review, revision and publication of regulatory safety documents. AERB has developed safety codes, safety standards and safety guides covering facilities and activities under its purview. The development of a safety code for radiation sources, equipment and installation and practice-specific safety guides are under taken as a step towards developing harmonized set of regulatory requirements and guidance.

Annexure –I

No. of Diagnostic laboratories hospitals which were been found to be deviating from certain provisions of regulatory or licensing requirements (State-wise and Year-wise)

State	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Andhra Pradesh		10	4	6	20
Arunachal Pradesh				1	1
Assam	1	3	7	3	14
Bihar	1	4	7	4	16
Chandigarh	1		1	2	4
Chhattisgarh	2			7	9
Delhi	18	8	2	6	34
Goa	1				1
Gujarat		4	13	3	20
Haryana	3	2	5	12	22
Jammu and Kashmir		2			2
Jharkhand	1	2	1	3	7
Karnataka	6	2	11	12	31
Kerala		4	8		12
Madhya Pradesh	1	3	10	3	17
Maharashtra	10	14	19	18	61
Manipur		2			2
Meghalaya			1	1	2
Mizoram		1			1
Nagaland		1	1		2
Orissa		6	6	8	20
Pondicherry		1			1
Punjab	3	5	5	8	21
Rajasthan	4	7		3	14
Sikkim		1			1
Tamil Nadu	3	12	14	15	44
Telangana	1	13	3	3	20
Tripura	1				1
Uttar Pradesh	19	8	11	13	51
Uttarakhand			1	1	2
West Bengal		9	18	15	42
Grand Total	76	124	148	147	495