

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3854
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
NUCLEAR REACTORS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country have achieved self sufficiency in the development of nuclear reactors;
- (b) if not, the extent to which the country is dependent on foreign technology assistance in this field;
- (c) whether the Government proposed to use nuclear reactors in other fields than generation of electricity; and
- (d) if so, details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) & (b) The country's nuclear power reactor programme with 220 MWe/500 MWe Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and 500 MWe Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) is based on indigenous technology. The foreign co-operation with Russian Federation is for setting up of 2x1000 MWe Light Water Reactor Plant.

(c) & (d) The reactors apart from providing valuable research inputs to the Indian power programme have been producing a wide range of radioisotopes for use in nuclear medicine, agri- culture and industry. The extensive infrastructure developed has given impetus to radioisotope production and applications. Efforts in radioisotope applications have significantly contributed to the societal benefits such as the production of high yielding varieties of several crop seeds, radiation sterilisation of medical products and other socially relevant areas including development of many new procedure and nuclear medicine techniques for diagnosis and treatment.