

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ATOMIC ENERGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1328  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003  
DUMP SITES FOR BURYING NUCLEAR WASTES  
E. PONNUSWAMY

**Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether dump site has been identified to bury nuclear wastes permanently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the safety measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ST THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MOS IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ADDITIONAL CHARGE)  
S.B. MOOKHERJEE:

(a) & (b) Radioactive waste in different categories is generated during operation and maintenance of nuclear reactors. Radioactive waste with low activity content is permanently disposed off in near surface underground engineered facilities. These facilities are co-located along with major nuclear installations in access controlled area. The high level waste generated in the fuel reprocessing plant is being presently stored in the plant itself. No site has been identified so far for permanent disposal of high level waste.

(c) Safety measures are in position for all existing wastes disposal facilities. Waste is immobilized in stable and inert form in cement like materials and is packed in metallic containers. These waste packages are placed in engineered underground structures and sealed. The design, construction and operation conform to international standards and practices. The disposal operations are carried out under the surveillance of regulatory authorities.