

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:640
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
SAFETY AND SECURITY OF NUCLEAR PLANTS
PRENEET KAUR

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate safeguards exist for our Atomic Power Plants to prevent radioactive releases due to events such as flooding of site, severe earthquake, accident and also from external threats; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) Yes, Sir. The nuclear power plants in India have been sited, designed, constructed, & commissioned and operated by taking into account the possibility of natural events

(b) such as flooding, earthquakes, soil subsidence and severe and extreme winds.

Similar consideration is also given to man-induced events such as possible chemical explosion and toxic gas releases. Nuclear containment is one of the strongest structures in the country as it is designed to withstand severe natural and man-made events. When the nuclear power plant site is chosen, minimum safe distance from airport is also considered. Besides strong containment building, the reactors have redundant and diverse safety systems ensuring high reliability. Several barriers such as fuel cladding, coolant boundary and double containment system are provided to prevent the release of radioactivity from the fuel. In case severe accidents take place, emergency preparedness plans are in place at all nuclear power stations to mitigate possible impact of radioactive releases from the plant.