

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:588
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010
RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL
Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any regulations exist for installing, operating, transporting or decommissioning radioactive materials/ devices in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to avoid Cobalt-60 pencils like incidents at Mayapuri in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004 and Atomic Energy (Safe Disposal of Radioactive Wastes) Rules, 1987 promulgated under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and Safety Standards, Codes published by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) made thereunder provide necessary frame work of regulations pertaining to installation, operation, decommissioning, disposal and transport of devices containing radioactive material.

(c) Several actions have been taken by AERB and other Government agencies to prevent incidents like Mayapuri. Some of the steps taken are:

- i. Installation of Radiological Detection Equipments (RDEs) at entry/exit of airports, sea-ports, inland container depots and other land ports.
- ii. Further efforts to bring legacy sources (which may have been in existence from periods when regulatory controls were still in the evolving stage) under regulatory control by scanning old records.
- iii. Updating the inventory of sources based on inputs from various Government departments/agencies, source suppliers, response to advertisement issued in newspapers, etc.
- iv. Increase in the number of awareness programmes pertaining to radiation safety in various areas in the country. Members of scrap association have been sensitized to monitor scrap for radiation. On May 6, 2010 AERB organized an awareness programme for scrap dealers and workers of Mayapuri scrap market. In this program, more than 150 participants were familiarized with the use of radiation monitors.
- v. The requirement of pre-shipment inspection certificate for consignments imported to India declaring that they do not contain any type of hazardous, toxic waste, radioactive contaminated waste has been notified.
- vi. Enhanced regulatory control by increasing frequency of inspection and establishment of Regional Centres of AERB.