

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5058
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2010
NUCLEAR AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Delhi University ignored the disposal norms in respect of the Nuclear and Radioactive wastes for the last 23 years;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the action taken against the University so far in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes some remedial measures for the prevention of such incident in future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (c): The Delhi University informed that disposal norms in respect of Nuclear and Radioactive Wastes were not ignored. In an isolated incident, an old Gamma Cell Model 220, make AECL containing decayed Cobalt 60 was disposed off by the Department of Chemistry of Delhi University in the month of February, 2010. No such other incident has ever reported/occurred.

A three member Inquiry Committee, vide their notification dated 04.05.2010, has been constituted by the Delhi University to inquire into the disposal of Gamma Cell Model 220, AECL and the University has suspended all activities involving use of radiation sources vide their notification dated 03.05.2010.

(d) to (e): Several actions have been taken by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and other Government agencies to prevent such incidents. Some of the steps taken are:

- (i) Planned installation of Radiological Detection Equipments (RDE's) at entry/exit of airports, sea-ports, inland container depots and other land ports;
- (ii) Up gradation of the inventory sources based on inputs from various Government departments/agencies;
- (iii) Awareness programs pertaining to radiation safety in the country have been conducted;
- (iv) Members of scrap association have been sensitized to monitor scrap for radiation;
- (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/scrap has been notified;
- (vi) Enhanced regulatory control by increasing frequency of inspection and establishment of Regional Centres of AERB.