

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:404
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010
RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS
Abdulrahman Shri

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has specified safe custody and disposal of radioactive materials and certain protective measures to be taken by hospitals, universities and other institutions for staff employed in the radiology departments;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether BARC has carried out any inspection of the radiology departments of hospitals, universities or institutions registered with BARC;
- (d) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) The steps taken by BARC to ensure strict compliance of its guidelines by hospitals, universities or institutions which are permitted to use radioactive materials?

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) to (e) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.404 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 25.8.2010 BY SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN REGARDING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL.

- (a) The designated body for such regulatory functions is Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). AERB has specified the requirements of safe custody, protective measures during useful life and disposal of radioactive substances.
- (b) The requirements of safe custody, protective measures during useful life and disposal of radioactive substances are governed by Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules-2004 and Atomic Energy (Safe Disposal of Radioactive Wastes) Rules, 1987. AERB specifies the requirements in its Regulatory Safety Documents. These are also specified in the Authorization issued to the institutions on a case to case basis.
- (c) AERB conducts regulatory inspections of radiology departments of hospitals, universities or institutions registered as the radiation facilities licensed by it.
- (d) The details of regulatory inspection of radiation facilities carried out in 2009 are as follows:

Table 1: Regulatory Inspections of radiation facilities

(For January to December 2009)

S.No. Facilities Number of Inspections carried out

- 1. Diagnostic X-ray 46
- 2. Radiotherapy 11
- 3. Nuclear Medicine 41
- 4. Industrial Radiography 57
- 5. Gamma Irradiators 15

(e) AERB implements the following steps to ensure the regulatory compliance by the facilities (hospitals, universities and institutions) which are permitted to use radioactive material.

Periodic routine regulatory inspections

Surprise inspections

Review of the periodic safety status reports submitted by the facilities.

Carry out investigations of any unusual occurrences and exposures.

Safety performance appraisals of the facility while renewing its license

Motivate the personnel of the facility for improving the radiation protection safety culture by way of awareness programmes.