

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2238
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011
RESENTMENT OVER JAITAPUR ATOMIC PLANT
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently given environmental clearance to Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant after a long wait;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the environmentalists and local people are opposing the setting up of Nuclear Power Plant as it would cause large scale damage to environment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address the grievances of environmentalists and local people?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PMO (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) accorded environmental clearance for setting up 6 x 1650 MW Jaitapur project on November 26, 2010 after completion of the prescribed process. The clearance stipulates 23 specific and 12 general conditions to be complied with which include preparation of a bio-diversity conservation plan and study of the environmental impact when the first stage goes into operation. The clearance is valid for 5 years. With regard to environmental clearance for JNPP, NPCIL undertook Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study in December 2005.

The application for environmental clearance was submitted to MoEF in February 2009 as per the provisions of applicable notification. Additional terms of reference as well as directives to NPCIL to proceed with public hearing were issued in June 2009. Public hearing was organized by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board at Jaitapur site on 16th May 2010. Based on the minutes of meeting and public response of public hearing (964 pages submission by public in Marathi) were received by NPCIL on 16th July 2010. Response to the above submission by translating all submissions from Marathi to English was submitted to MoEF on 23rd September 2010. Parallely, NPCIL had various meetings with NGOs like Konkan Bachao Samithi, Mumbai on 3 occasions including at the level of Chairman, AEC & Secretary, DAE, and Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai, wherein all environmental and technical issues were fully addressed. In addition, NPCIL had also meetings with the representatives of various political parties from local as well as state level and addressed all the technical and environmental issues raised by them. The concern of public regarding radiation effects on human health, agricultural produce, fish yield, etc. has been addressed through interactions with Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), Fisheries Department of some universities in the region, agricultural scientists of DAE and other Institutions of the State. Environmental Appraisal Committee of MoEF visited JNPP site on 26th October 2010 and reviewed proposal of environmental clearance at Ratnagiri. Based on final submission of quarries during the above review meeting by NPCIL on 15th November 2010, MoEF accorded environmental clearance to JNPP on 26th November 2010. As a part of above environmental clearance and as per NPCIL's Corporate Social Responsibilities, MoEF desired to constitute a Committee for preparing a Bio-diversity Conservation Plan around Jaitapur region upto 10 kms.

(c)&(d) Due to misconceptions and unfounded apprehensions regarding nuclear power and the projects, some sections of environmentalists and local people have been opposing the project.

(e) Addressing the misconceptions and apprehensions of the environmentalists and local people have been taken up through structured public awareness campaigns. These include dissemination of the factual information regarding nuclear power and the project in print and electronic media, relevant literature in local languages, films on harmony between nuclear power & environment, organizing exhibitions on nuclear power, visits of local people to operating nuclear power stations in the country, etc. Several debates and public meetings have also been organized. In this regard, an open discussion with the participation of the surrounding population of the project was held by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra on January 18, 2011 where the apprehensions of the people were addressed. A high level committee, chaired by Director, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and comprising of environment experts has been constituted for preparing a bio-diversity conservation plan around Jaitapur region.