

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2548
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011
DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE
Punia Shri P.L.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cases of radiation spread from the scraps of chemistry laboratories of universities have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken by the Government for disposing of the said scrap?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a)&(b) One case involving radiation exposure arising from unauthorized disposal of a device containing radioactive material had come to the notice of the Government during April 2010. No other case from chemistry laboratories of any university has come to the notice of the Government.

The incident involving exposure to seven persons, resulted in death of a person and radiation injuries to two persons. This was due to handling of bare radioactive Cobalt sources of Gamma Cell-220 belonging to University of Delhi. This gamma cell was auctioned by University of Delhi and dismantled in the Mayapuri Scrap yard, New Delhi. After the incident, a thorough investigation was carried out and several corrective actions were taken to prevent recurrence of such event.

(c) All the sources and contaminated items were retrieved from the site and safely disposed off, following the well established procedure.