

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2586

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011

SAFETY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian nuclear reactors have been subjected to quality upgradation at par with the technological upgradation being affected in other countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to handle nuclear emergencies in our nuclear reactors;
- (d) whether the National Disaster Management Authority has sought enhanced safety capabilities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the follow up action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) Review of safety and performance and their upgradation is an ongoing activity in Indian nuclear power plants.
- (b) The features, systems and procedures are periodically reviewed in the context of operational feedback and continuously evolving safety standards around the world. Upgrades have been carried out at Indian nuclear power stations to bring them to the state-of-the-art in terms of safety. In addition, Renovation and Modernisation has been carried out at six reactors (RAPS-2, MAPS- 1&2, NAPS 1&2 and KAPS-1) and life extension measures undertaken at two reactors (TAPS 1&2).
- (c) Emergency preparedness plans are in place at all nuclear power plants. These plans are put in place before the start of operation of the plants. The emergency preparedness plans at each nuclear power plant are periodically reviewed and upgraded. Off-site emergency exercises are carried out once in two years to verify, validate and obtain the feedback. Based on the feedbacks the emergency preparedness plans are improved.
- (d)&(e) National Disaster Management Authority does not deal with the safety of the plant. However, they concentrate on disaster management and emergency preparedness. In the event of potential off-site emergencies in public domain, the authorities at the level of districts, state and centre are to play a vital role in response and accordingly off-site emergency plans of nuclear power plants are reviewed. Mock drills at different nuclear installations located in different states are conducted with the association of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and officials of the concerned states / districts. The gaps identified in co-ordination and response preparedness are being addressed by all concerned.