

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ATOMIC ENERGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1838  
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011  
SAFETY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS  
Rajesh Shri M. B.

**Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government has examined the international response to the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster and the steps taken by various countries in the context of the accident;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to hold in abeyance the practice of uprating and extending the life term of nuclear reactors;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to consider imposing a moratorium on further nuclear activity in the wake of increasing concerns over nuclear safety?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Countries across the globe, with nuclear power reactors, have reviewed the safety of their reactors in context of the Fukushima through mechanisms like 'stress tests' etc. They have also come out with the recommendations to further enhance the safety in the nuclear power reactors. India has also undertaken the safety evaluation through the task forces constituted for each of the technology in operation and reactors under construction. These reviews have found that Indian nuclear power reactors have sufficient margins in design features to withstand the extreme natural events. These task forces have also made certain recommendations to enhance the safety further which are being implemented after due process of approvals. Barring Germany and Switzerland, no other country with nuclear power programmes have made any announcements on phasing out nuclear power plants.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Nuclear power reactor designs are robust and have inherent margins in the designs of the reactors appreciably beyond their design life. The health assessment of the components, equipment and systems in nuclear power plants are carried out periodically and necessary upgrades are implemented time to time to ensure that safety standards are always at state of the art level. In addition, regular inspections and reviews of the safety of Indian nuclear power plants are also carried out by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) independently. The ageing management procedures and technology are well developed and are in place at the nuclear power plants. A thorough review of the structures, systems and equipment are carried out by the utility and decision on the extension of life is finally taken after concurrence of the regulator, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

(e) No, Sir.