GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ATOMIC ENERGY LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5643 ANSWERED ON:07.09.2011 SAFETY OF JAITAPUR ATOMIC PLANT Basheer Shri E. T. Muhammed

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the safety and security aspects of proposed Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant in the light of nuclear accident in Fukushima, Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated nuclear waste likely to be generated per annum from the plant and the steps taken/proposed to be taken for safe disposal of the waste and also to prevent the radiation;

(d) whether the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (USNRC) concerns about the safety of the computer system in the reactor has been taken into consideration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto alongwith the follow up action taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Review of safety aspects in the proposed Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant is being carried out by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) deputed an expert Committee for assessing the technology and the safety aspects of Evolutionary Pressurized Reactors (EPRs). The Committee carefully examined these issues and visited the plants under construction in Finland and France. The Committee also had discussions with regulatory authorities in Finland and France. The Committee's report placed in the AEC meeting has clarified all doubts regarding safety and efficiency.

Subsequent to the Fukushima (Japan) incident, safety review of the EPRs is underway in France and will be further reviewed by AERB.

(c) The total volume of solid waste expected to be generated by the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant would be within 0.15 cu.m. per year per MW. The nuclear waste handling, treatment, storage and disposal will be as per the well laid down procedures and guidelines stipulated by the AERB.

(d)&(e) On review by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), it was found that the originally proposed computer systems needed further reinforcement to meet the regulatory requirements. Similar observations were also expressed by other regulators like USNRC (USA), STUK (Finland), HSE (UK), ASN (France). Accordingly, modifications of computer systems for Control & Instrumentation architecture in respect of EPR units to be set up at Jaitapur site will be done to meet all the safety and regulatory requirements of AERB.