

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:655
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011
IMPACT OF ATOMIC POWER STATIONS
Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey about the environmental and health impact on places and the people residing near and around atomic power stations in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has found any ill effects of radioactive discharges from atomic power plants on the people and environment of the area; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the 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)&(b) Yes, Sir. The environmental matrices like air, water, soil, vegetation, crops, milk, fish, etc. around each of the nuclear power plant (NPP) site are regularly monitored by an independent Environmental Survey Laboratory (ESL) set up at each of the site a few years prior to operation of the plant. The samples for analysis are selected on the basis of potential pathways of exposure and an area upto a distance of 30 km is covered. The data collected has not indicated any measurable change in radiation levels in the environment and radioactivity in the environmental matrices compared to the base line data.

Epidemiological survey for health assessment in respect of employees and their families staying in the nearby township and villages of each of the NPP have been carried out by reputed local medical colleges and analysis has been carried out by Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai, a premier cancer research centre in the country. In addition, annual medical checkups are carried out for all workers regularly. The examinations/studies have found that the morbidity pattern of all ailments is lower than the national average of the corresponding ailments. There has also not been any rise in cancer morbidity compared to national average.

(c) No. Sir. There is no adverse health effects among the people and environment around the nuclear power plants.

(d) Since the dose levels are very low to cause any health effect, no action is required. Radiation dose levels are monitored regularly.