

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:979  
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011  
POLLUTION FROM RADIO-ACTIVE SUBSTANCES  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether pollution level from radio active substances on sea water has been constantly increasing;
- (b) if so, the assessment of managers and experts of nuclear plants thereon; and
- (c) the details of measures being taken by the Government to check radio active pollution in sea water in future?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) As reported by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), there is no increase in the pollution level from radioactive substances on sea water. The Environmental Survey Laboratories (ESL) are installed at all atomic power station sites and the mining sites under DAE well before the commissioning of the facility. ESLs carry out pre-operational survey to establish the pre- operational baseline radioactivity levels in and around the site. During operation of the reactor, environmental samples such as air, water (including sea water wherever applicable), surface water, soil, vegetations, agricultural produces, milk, meat and other dietary products are collected periodically and analyzed for radioactivity. ESLs are equipped with highly sensitive instruments and sufficient infrastructure to analyze extremely low levels of radioactivity in environmental samples. The radioactivity levels in environmental samples are compared with pre-operational values in the respective matrix. The studies carried out at various power station sites have clearly indicated that there is no build up of radioactivity in any of the environmental matrix and the same is true for the sea water for the facilities situated at coastal sites like Tarapur and Kalpakkam. The annual dose to the general public from reactor effluents are extremely low and are far below the regulatory limits prescribed by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

(b) A systematic environmental monitoring carried out regularly ensures management of environmental activity in the public domain and helps in keeping it well below the prescribed limit of AERB.

(c) AERB enforces strict regulation on the limits of radioactivity released to public domain. The plant management ensures its compliance. Regular monitoring is done by the ESL and the results are submitted to the AERB.