

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:432
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011
STRESS TEST
Tewari Shri Manish

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether protests over Nuclear Power Stations at Kudankulam (Tamil Nadu), Jaitapur (Maharashtra) and Haripur (West Bengal) have delayed their commissioning/construction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether fears of Fukushima like accident taking place at these proposed plants are justified and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted `stress test` of existing units after Fukushima accident;
- (e) if so, the detailed compilation in this regard of every unit;
- (f) whether safety of above nuclear power stations from point of view of tsunamis and flood hazards has been assessed;
- (g) if so, the findings thereof;
- (h) whether the Government has any plans to further acquire land in neighbouring villages, leading to displacement of locals, at above sites;
- (i) if so, the details thereof;
- (j) the estimated rate at which energy will be supplied by above plants and how does this compare with solar and wind energy;
- (k) whether spent fuel from these reactors can cause any radiation hazards; and
- (l) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP), (Units-1&2 of 1000 MWe each) in Tamilnadu are in an advanced stage of construction and commissioning. The Unit-1 is 99.2% and the Unit-2 is 95% completed. The recent protests at Kudankulam have delayed the start-up of the project. For the Nuclear Power Plant at Jaitapur in Maharashtra, land is acquired and environmental clearances are accorded by Ministry of Environment and Forests. Currently, infrastructure development at the site is in progress. The construction of nuclear power plant at the site has not started yet. In case of Haripur in West Bengal, the pre-project activities are underway.

(c) The fears of a Fukushima like accident taking place in India at these locations are perceived on account of misinformation spread by the lobbies with ideological opposition to nuclear power. The seismic and tsunamigenic setting is different at these locations from that of Fukushima and the reactors planned to be set up at these locations have advanced safety features and provisions in the designs that can safely handle extreme natural events.

(d) & (e) The Government has carried out safety reviews (stress tests) of the reactors in operation and of those under construction in the country including the Kudankulam reactors. In respect of reactors to be set up at Jaitapur, the review is currently underway by the French regulatory authority, which will be followed by a further review to be undertaken by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) in India. The reactors to be set up at Haripur will be similar to the Kudankulam reactors. The safety reviews have indicated that Indian nuclear power reactors in operation and under construction including Kudankulam have adequate margins and provisions in design to withstand extreme natural events. Major finding of the safety review carried out post Fukushima event are summarised in Annexure-I.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The nuclear power plants at existing sites have adequate margins and provisions in design to withstand extreme natural events.

(h) & (i) There is no proposal to acquire any additional land at existing sites including Kudankulam and Jaitapur. Land at Haripur is yet to be acquired.

(j) The tariff of the electricity from Kudankulam is expected to be about Rs.2.50 per unit, which is lower than the tariffs for wind and solar energy. While evaluating the project proposal for the Jaitapur Plant we are ensuring that the tariff is comparable with the tariff from other generating unit based on other technologies in the same region and in the expected year of plant commissioning.

(k) & (l) No, Sir. The spent fuel will be temporarily stored in specially designed and radiation shielded facilities as per the well proven procedures in accordance to regulatory requirements at the plant site before transporting the same for reprocessing plant for reprocessing.