

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:186

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011

SAFETY PARAMETERS FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar; Sukur Shri Jadhav Baliram

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the safety parameters maintained at Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant are at par with the Nuclear Power Plants in major developed countries like USA, France and Britain and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether action on all the findings/recommendations of the bodies which undertook safety review of Indian Nuclear Power Plants have been initiated;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some of the States including Tamil Nadu, scientists, academicians, ex-army chiefs and ex-administrators have objected to setting-up of nuclear plants in the country in general and Kudankulam in particular and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto;

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 186 FOR ANSWER ON 07.12.2011 BY SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY AND SHRI BALIRAM JADHAV REGARDING SAFETY PARAMETERS FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.

(a) The safety provisions of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant are at par with those in nuclear power plants in major developed countries like USA, France & Britain and in line with provisions of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In fact, some of the safety features of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant are more advanced. As per the policy, any reactor to be set up in the country with foreign technical cooperation is required to meet the safety norms prescribed by the regulatory authorities in the country of origin as well as the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) in India. The reactors being set up at Kudankulam meet both the Russian and Indian regulatory requirements on safety.

(b)&(c) Following the Fukushima (Japan) incident, the government directed safety reviews of the Indian nuclear power plants in operation and under construction. Accordingly, the safety review of Indian nuclear power plants was carried out by task forces of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and a committee set up by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). These reviews have found that Indian reactors are safe and have sufficient margins and features in design to withstand extreme natural events. The task forces of NPCIL and the AERB committee have recommended installations for enhancing safety to a still higher level. A roadmap for implementation of the recommendations, in a time bound manner, has been drawn up and the process of implementation has commenced.

(d) The Kudankulam site was offered by the State Government and found suitable by the Site Selection Committee (SSC) of the Government based on in-depth evaluation in accordance with the AERB 'Code of Practice on Safety in Nuclear Power Plant Siting'. The Central Government accorded approval to this site in 1988. The construction started in 2002 after administrative approval and financial sanction of the project by the Central Government. The work has progressed with the full cooperation of the State Government and in total harmony with the local population. However, recently, there have been protests by a section of local people against startup of the project, due to apprehensions about safety in the wake of Fukushima incident and campaign by groups ideologically opposed to nuclear power.

Some scientists, academicians, one ex-navy chief and ex-administrators have raised issues related to country's energy policy, safety of nuclear power, Independence of regulatory body, review of statutes like Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act and asked for a hold

on setting up new nuclear power projects.

(e) India's energy needs are huge and growing and given our limited availability resources, all energy sources need to be deployed optimally. Nuclear power is an important clean energy option that can provide long term energy security for the country. It will be pursued, with full regard to safety, security and protection of environment and livelihood of the local people.