

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3346

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011

IMPLEMENTATION OF CIVIL NUCLEAR LIABILITY ACT

Joshi Dr. Murlī Manohar;Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash;Roy Shri Arjun

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made by the Government to remove the doubts raised by some of the foreign countries on certain provisions of the Nuclear Liability Act;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof ; and

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to ensure the safety of our people at the same time;

Answer

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

(a)& (b) Following the passage of Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 and before publication of Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Rules, 2011, some potential suppliers had raised certain issues mainly relating to application of `operator's right of recourse` as provided in Section 17 (b) and `Act to be in addition to any other law` as provided in Section 46 of the Act.

(c) Government of India attaches the highest importance to nuclear safety. Regular reviews of safety and upgrades of nuclear power plants to bring them to state of the art in terms of safety are an ongoing exercise. Post Fukushima (Japan) incident, safety review of all nuclear power stations have been conducted by the taskforces. The reviews have found that Indian nuclear power reactors are safe and have margins to withstand extreme natural events. They have also made recommendations to further enhance the safety. A roadmap for their implementation has been drawn up and the implementation has commenced.

In the wake of the Fukushima incident, a statement was also made on the floor of the Lok Sabha on 14 March 2011 informing that work is underway in the Department of Atomic Energy towards further strengthening India's national nuclear safety regulatory authority. Accordingly, a Bill titled `The Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority Bill, 2011` has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 07th September 2011 and the same stance referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment & Forests.