

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2216

ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has asked all the States having nuclear installations to prepare a plan for development of Export Processing Zone (EPZ) around the nuclear plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether mock exercises to look at the offsite nuclear emergency plans were carried out by NDMA in the wake of the Fukushima experience in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which nuclear installations in the country are safe for the families living in and around such installations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d): The existing regulatory requirements with regard to disaster preparedness of Nuclear installation are brought out in the following Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) documents:-

AERB safety code AERB/SC/S "Code of Practice on Safety in Nuclear Power Plant Siting."

Atomic energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004, rule 33, (1).

AERB/SG/EP-2 Preparation of off-site emergency preparedness plan for Nuclear Installation.

The AERB/SG/EP-2 covers all aspects of off-site emergency response plans, which the operating organization and state public authorities shall prepare and maintain in full readiness for implementation in the event of off-site emergency at nuclear installations in the country.

All the nuclear installations have on-site and off-site emergency preparedness plans as per regulatory requirement.

A series of workshop and Mock drills were carried out by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) during June to August 2011 in association with the , Nuclear Plant Organizations, District Administration, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board & Department of Atomic Energy, Crisis Management Group in all the State where Nuclear power plants are located. Accordingly, keeping in view the observations made during workshop / Mock drills, the concerned States were requested to prepare a plan for development of the Emergency Planning zone (EPZ) around the Nuclear Power Plants, which will facilitate not only better preparedness to cope with an unlikely event of nuclear emergency but also in winning the confidence of the people around.

Mock-exercises were conducted at all the 6 States where Nuclear Power Plants are operating viz; tarapur (Maharashtra), Kalpakkam (Tamilnadu), Narora (Uttar Pradesh), Kokrapar (Gujarat), Kaiga (Karnataka) and Rawatbhata (Rajasthan) during the period June-2011 to August-2011. During the Mock exercises, the need for an enhanced level of preparedness and awareness generation of the community in the event of nuclear emergency were highlighted. Further, as a result of the gaps identified during mock drills the need for revising the existing off-site emergency plans was emphasized and this has been undertaken by NDMA along with other stakeholders.

(e): Nuclear plants are sited, designed, constructed, commissioned and operated as per regulatory requirements by AERB. Nuclear plants during normal operation release negligible amount of radioactivity, which contribute to maximum 0.02 mSv exposure to public in a year which is significantly lower than the radiations due to natural background. Safety provisions built into the design of the plant ensures that possibility of accidental release of radioactivity is remote. As further backup the existing emergency plans ensures the safety of the families living in and around the nuclear installations.