

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:479
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2012
SECURITY OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS
Mani Shri Jose K.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a US based organisation has placed the country at rank 28 among the 32 countries in the world with respect to the security of nuclear materials;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the low ranking of the country;
- (c) the major India-specific issues raised by the organisation in its study;
- (d) whether the Government has studied the issues and addressed the concerns in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE 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.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.479 FOR ANSWER ON 09.05.2012 BY SHRI JOSE K. MANI REGARDING SECURITY OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS

(a)to(c) The Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), a US-based non-governmental organisation, released a report titled `NTI Nuclear Materials Security Index: Building a Framework for Assurance, Accountability and Action`, in January, 2012 showing a baseline assessment of nuclear security conditions in 176 countries. India was ranked 28th out of 32 countries assessed to have weapons-usable nuclear materials by NTI. Briefly, the NTI report stated in regard to India that providing greater transparency into nuclear materials security measures, establishing true independence for its nuclear regulator, and improving regulations about the physical security of materials in transit were all areas for urgent action, adding that as one of two states known to be still producing materials for nuclear-weapons purposes had an additional negative impact on India's score.

(d) Government does not share the conclusions of the NTI report as it is based on a faulty methodology, especially on the issues relating to India. The report uses somewhat unreliable information and tends to equate as a general principle security with transparency.

(e) All nuclear material in India is subject to strict oversight and controls. India is fully conscious of global concerns on nuclear terrorism and clandestine proliferation. At the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul held in March 2012, it has been announced that India will contribute 1 million US dollars to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund for the year 2012-13. India is a party to the main international legal instruments on nuclear security - the Convention on Physical Protection and its 2005 amendment, as well as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. India supports the extension of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and the work of its Committee. India has contributed actively to the Nuclear Security Summit process, and participated in IAEA's Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. India has an unblemished record in the field of nuclear security, including in the implementation of IAEA safeguards applicable to our civilian nuclear facilities. India has established a law based export control regime and the Government is determined to further strengthen export control systems to keep them on par with the highest international standards.A