

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:129

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012

COMMISSIONING OF KUDANKULAM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Lingam Shri P.;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.;Venugopal Shri P.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some of the units of Kudankulam nuclear power plant are expected to be commissioned very soon;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether all the formalities such as obtaining clearance, removal of dummy fuel and loading of real fuel etc. and final inspection have been completed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the defects noticed during the final inspection and if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which all these formalities are likely to be completed;
- (e) whether a team of scientists had also carried out study of Kudankulam nuclear power plant, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the concerns expressed by the local population and others on the project have been resolved and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The commissioning of Unit-1 of Kudankulam project is scheduled to be completed very soon.

(c)&(d) The removal of dummy fuel and inspection of the Reactor Pressure Vessel have been completed in Unit-1. The report of inspection has been submitted to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). No defects have been noticed during final inspections. After completing inspection, application for fuel loading has been submitted to regulatory authorities. This will be followed by fuel loading, approach to criticality and power generation after obtaining stage-wise clearance from the AERB.

(e) An expert group of eminent scientists, academicians, doctors and engineers specializing in diverse fields constituted by the Government carried out a study of the safety and related aspects of the Kudankulam project and explained the same to the representatives of the people protesting against the commissioning of the project.

(f) Yes, Sir. The expert group of the Central Government has comprehensively addressed the concerns expressed by the local people and others and found the Kudankulam Plant to be safe. An expert committee constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu has also found this plant to be safe.