

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1691

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2012

LOCATION OF REACTORS

Dome Dr. Ram Chandra;Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the environmental clearance granted to the Jaitapur Project in November 2010 are being flouted and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the National Committee on Solidarity with Jaitapur struggle pointed out that the location of six reactors in Jaitapur raises the risk of an accident substantially;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the details of other objections raised/ suggestions made by the said Committee;
- (e) whether the reactors which are to be purchased from Areva company of France are untested technology and are exorbitantly expensive; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with details of the agreements signed between Areva and NPCIL?

Answer

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) There are press reports to the effect.

(c) In India, nuclear power reactors are set up and operated on twin unit concept with dedicated safety and process systems, operating personnel and the management for operating these units. Each reactor has independent safety and process systems. At the same site, additional twin units module with independent safety and security of operating island are considered to reduce requirement of land for exclusion zone. This also helps in meeting the objective of minimising the displacement of population.

(d) The press reports indicate that the said Committee has also raised the issue of spent fuel storage.

(e) The nuclear reactors planned to be set up at Jaitapur are the Evolutionary Pressurised Water Reactors (EPRs). The EPR design has been based on the proven design, safety principles and manufacturing technologies employed in "N4" reactors in France and "KONVOI" reactors in operation in Germany. N4 & KONVOI reactors are under successful and safe operation for the last many years. The EPRs planned at Jaitapur incorporate the operational feedback from "N4" & "KONVOI" reactors. Currently, EPRs are under construction in Finland, France and China. The operational experience from these reactors will also be available before the commissioning of Jaitapur nuclear power project. As regards the cost, the discussions on the techno-commercial offer of AREVA, France are focused on arriving at mutually acceptable capital cost and tariff levels.

(f) Following the Inter-Governmental Agreement between India & France in 2008, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and AREVA, France signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up Nuclear Power Reactors at Jaitapur on February 4, 2009. A General Framework Agreement (GFA) and Early Works Agreement (EWA) were signed between NPCIL and AREVA on December 6, 2010. The GFA covers installation of the initial set of 2x 1650 MW EPR including scope of work, division of responsibility, design, materials, technology, services and life time fuel supplies. The EWA relates to preliminary works related to design, engineering and regulatory aspects.