

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1709
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2012
STRENGTHENING OF OVERSIGHT PROCESS
Tewari Shri Manish

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government as a follow up to the Seoul Communiqué adopted at the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit to further strengthen the oversight processes over nuclear material in India;
- (b) whether the Government subscribes to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT);
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is equipped with Nuclear Forensics to track the origin in illicit nuclear devices or other radioactive materials which could be used for terrorist purposes;
- (e) if so, whether the Government envisages any international cooperation in this field and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps the Government has taken to promote a nuclear security culture in the country in pursuance of Point 11 of the Seoul Communiqué?

Answer

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

- (a) India has been following principles of physical security of nuclear materials and associated facilities right from the inception of its nuclear programme. India is a party to all the major international instruments related to nuclear security. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has updated the document on 'Nuclear Security Requirements for Nuclear Power Plants'.
- (b)&(c) India is a State Party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). The instrument of ratification on the CPPNM was deposited with IAEA on 19 September 2007. India has already ratified the ICSANT.
- (d) The available technical expertise in Nuclear Forensics, employed for Nuclear Material Control and Accounting as well as for detection and characterisation of radioactive materials is also used to identify the material and its origin. For material out of regulatory control (illicit material), indigenously developed radioactive and nuclear material detectors are in regular use and are deployed at airports, seaports and border posts.
- (e) Since 2002, India has piloted a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly on measures to prevent terrorists gaining access to Weapons of Mass Destruction. India fully supports the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, its extension resolution 1977, and the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. India participates in the Working Groups on nuclear detection, nuclear forensics and response and mitigation of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). India also cooperates with Interpol's Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Unit, and is a participant in the IAEA's Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB). India has actively contributed to IAEA's Action Plans on Nuclear Security and announced a contribution of US \$ 1 million to IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund. Cooperation MoUs/Practical Arrangements have been concluded with the USA, Russia, France and IAEA in respect of Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP).
- (f) Personnel working in Department of Atomic Energy have been attending nuclear security-related programmes. India has also been organising international and regional courses on the subject. GCNEP hosted an off-campus training course on Physical Protection in November, 2011.