

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3128

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012

PROCESS TO TURN NUCLEAR WASTE NON RADIOACTIVE

Shanavas Shri M. I.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a process has been developed with which the nuclear waste becomes non-radioactive within 300 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated any pilot project in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether this project is run under an international consortium or exclusively by the Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) India is pursuing the Programme for development of a process for High Level Waste management where separation is carried out and thereby nearly 99% of the high level radioactive waste becomes, practically non-radioactive by natural decay within 300 years. To carry out accelerator driven transmutation of the balance 1% long-lived radionuclides, the management strategy for conversion to radionuclides with shorter half lives is at R&D stage.

(c) A pilot plant is planned to be commissioned to test this process at Tarapur, Maharashtra

(d) The project is planned exclusively by the Department of Atomic Energy and is under no international consortium.

(e) Not applicable in view of (d) above.