

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3900
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013
COMMENCEMENT OF KUDANKULAM NPP .
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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project and the funds utilized so far for its construction;
- (b) whether the commercial operation of the project has been delayed further;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the time by which it is expected to be commissioned; and
- (e) the main features of the project in terms of job opportunities, safety of the environment, livelihoods of the hamlet and nearby villages?

Answer

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

(a) At present various activities leading to approach to first criticality (start of fission chain reaction for the first time) in accordance with stage-wise clearances of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) are in progress in Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) – Unit-1. Commissioning activities are in progress in Unit-2. The expenditure on Kudankulam Project (KKNPP Units 1&2 - 2 X 1000 MW) till January 2013 has been `15,454 crore.

(b)to(d) In nuclear power plants, a series of activities including integrated system tests, first criticality, subsequent performance tests, synchronisation of the unit with the grid and raising of power in steps etc. in accordance with stage-wise clearances of the AERB are to be carried out after loading of fuel, before start of commercial operation. All efforts are being made to attain commissioning of the Unit-1 by May 2013, subject to regulatory concurrences at intermediate stages.

e) The project has provided direct and indirect employment to several local people, apart from many business opportunities. The economic development in the area has been in harmony with the traditional means of livelihood of the people in the surrounding villages like fishing. The nuclear power reactors at Kudankulam employ several advanced safety features to ensure protection of people and the environment even under most stressful situation like extreme natural events leading to loss of power and cooling water supply.