

**COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2011-2012)**

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

TWENTY FIFTH REPORT

**REVIEW OF PENDING
ASSURANCES PERTAINING TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC
ENERGY**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 04 September, 2012



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

September, 2012/Bhadrapada, 1934 (Saka)

CONTENTS

Composition of the Committee (2011-2012)	(i)
Introduction	(ii)

Report

Review of Pending Assurances pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy.	1-17
---	------

Appendices

Appendix-I - Questions and the Answers	18-57
Appendix-II - Extracts from Manual of Practice & Procedure in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, New Delhi	58-62

Annexures

Annexure I- Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 15 June, 2012.	63-65
Annexure II- Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 20 July, 2012.	66-70
Annexure III- Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 30 August, 2012.	71-72

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES*(2011 - 2012)**

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Shri Hansaraj Gangaram Ahir
3. Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana
4. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
5. Shri Dara Singh Chauhan
6. Shri Bansa Gopal Chowdhury
7. Shri Ram Sundar Das
8. Smt. J. Helen Davidson
9. Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique
10. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Libra
11. Shri Ramkishun
- 12.# Rajkumari Ratna Singh
13. Shri Takam Sanjoy
14. Shri Jagadanand Singh
- 15.@ Shri Rajendra Agrawal

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P. Sreedharan - Additional Secretary
2. Shri R.S. Kambo - Director
3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan - Additional Director
4. Shri Kulvinder Singh - Committee Officer

* The Committee was constituted w.e.f. 23 September, 2011 *vide* Para No. 3376 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 24 November, 2011.

@ Nominated to the Committee on 3 February, 2012 vice Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav, M.P. resigned Lok Sabha [Refer to Para No. 3629 & 3630 dated 3 February, 2012.]

Nominated to the Committee on 2 May, 2012 vice Shri Mekapati Rajamohan Reddy, M.P. resigned Lok Sabha [Refer to Para No. 3688 dated 29 February, 2012 and 3993 dated 2 May, 2012.]

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty Fifth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2011-2012) at their sittings held on 15 June, 2012 and 20 July, 2012 took oral evidence of the representatives of the Department of Atomic Energy regarding pending assurances upto the 8th Session of 15th Lok Sabha pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy.

3. At their sitting held on 30 August, 2012, the Committee (2011-2012) considered and adopted their Twenty Fifth Report.

4. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form part of this report.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

**MANEKA GANDHI
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**

NEW DELHI;
30 August, 2012

Bhadrapada 8, 1934 (Saka)

REPORT

I. Introductory

The Committee on Government Assurances scrutinise the assurances, promises, undertakings etc. given by the Ministers from time to time on the floor of the House and report the extent to which such assurances, promises, undertakings etc. have been implemented. Once an assurance has been given on the floor of the House, the same is required to be implemented within three months. The Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are under obligation to seek extension of time, if they are unable to fulfil the assurance within the prescribed period of three months. Where a Ministry/Department are unable to implement an assurance, they are required to move the Committee to drop the same. The Committee consider such requests and agree to drop, if they are convinced with the grounds cited to be justified. The Committee also examine whether the implementation of assurances has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose and the Committee also look into the extent to which the assurances have been implemented.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2009-10) took a policy decision to call the representatives of the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, in a phased manner, to review the pending assurances and also look at the reasons for pendency, the operation of the prescribed system in the Ministries/Departments for dealing with assurances. The Committee also decided to look at the quality of assurances implemented by the Government.

3. In pursuance of the decision referred to above, the Committee (2011-2012) called the representatives of the Department of Atomic Energy and examined the 28 pending assurances (Appendix-I) pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy at their sittings held on 15 June, 2012 and 20 July, 2012.

PENDING ASSURANCES

The 28 assurances pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy which were pending implementation at the time of taking oral evidence are as follows:-

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. and date	Subject
1.	*USQ No. 3712 13.12.2000	Setting up Atomic Power Plants in Private Sector
2.	*USQ No. 1937 21.07.2004	Review of Atomic Energy Act
3.	*USQ No. 1095 29.11.2006	Private Sector in Nuclear Power Generation
4.	USQ No. 1486 29.10.2008	Setting up Nuclear Plant in North-East Region
5.	USQ No. 671 08.07.2009	Nuclear Power Plants in the Country
6.	USQ No. 2423 22.07.2009	Indo-US Nuclear Deal
7.	\$USQ No. 3335 09.12.2009	Setting up of Nuclear Power Plants
8.	USQ No. 931 03.03.2010	Fire in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
9.	USQ No. 936 03.03.2010	Atomic Plants with US Cooperation
10.	SQ No. 404 25.08.2010	Radioactive Materials
11.	USQ No. 4077 18.08.2010	Uranium Contamination

12.	USQ No. 4112 18.08.2010	Exploration of Uranium and Plutonium
13.	USQ No. 4609 25.08.2010	Joint Venture between NPCIL and NTPC
14.	USQ No. 2444 24.11.2010	Private Sector participation in Nuclear Power Sector
15.	USQ No. 4623 08.12.2010	Review of Atomic Energy Act
16.	USQ No. 4627 08.12.2010	Environment Clearance to Power Projects
17.	SQ No. 301 24.08.2011	Nuclear Safety
18.	USQ No. 471 03.08.2011	Problems of Indian Nuclear Industry
19.	USQ No. 636 03.08.2011	Establishment of Nuclear Plants
20.	USQ No. 1725 10.08.2011	Fast Breeder Reactor
21.	USQ No. 1739 10.08.2011	Protest against Nuclear Liability Law
22.	USQ No. 1758 10.08.2011	Availability of Thorium
23.	USQ No. 1795 10.08.2011	Setting up of Atomic Power Plants
24.	USQ No. 1827 10.08.2011	Radiation Emergency Response Centres
25.	USQ No. 2572 17.08.2011	International Convention on CSC

26.	USQ No. 2661 17.08.2011	Review of Atomic Energy Act
27.	USQ No. 2695 17.08.2011	Nuclear Regulatory Authority
28.	USQ No. 5643 07.09.2011	Safety of Jaitapur Atomic Plant

*-Not dropped at the sitting held on 03.04.2008.

\$-Partly Implemented Report/Statement laid on the Table of the House on 18.08.2010.

4. At the outset the Committee desired to know as to whether any system exists to take care of the assurances given by the Ministers on the floor of the House from time to time in the Ministry. In reply, the representative of the Ministry stated as follows:-

"Yes, Madam, as envisaged in the Manual of the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, we have maintained separate registers for Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. And no sooner a communication is received, that particular mention or particular action has been taken as assured, it is entered there, and thereafter it is treated as assurance and we follow it up as per the prescribed time schedule"

5. The Committee pointed out that according to the instructions, a review is supposed to be undertaken periodically at highest level to minimize the delay in the implementation of the assurances and enquired whether such a review of the pending assurances has been undertaken. In reply, the representative of the Ministry stated as follows:-

"Madam, I will be very frank and honest. At Secretary level a review has not been taken up. but let me also submit for your kind consideration, that each of the cases has been addressed, reviewed at Prime Minister's level or even Cabinet level or Secretary level. Unlike in many other Ministries where we have to seek information from somewhere, these are all policy issues directly under review at the Government level. We have noted the decision and we will incorporate it"

6. On being asked about the periodicity of internal review of pending assurances, the representative of the Ministry stated as follows:-

"I must admit, Madam, specifically there has been no review at Secretary level or Special Secretary level, this is the only review."

7. The Committee, therefore, directed that representative of the Ministry to institute a review as envisaged in the Manual regarding assurances brought out by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. In reply the representative of the Ministry stated as follows:-

"We will do that, Madam"

8. Subsequently, at the sitting held on 20 July 2012 the representative of the Ministry review of assurances submitted as follows:

"For your information, we would like to submit that with regard to regular review, we have instituted a mechanism in our Department and we already had the first review and based on the suggestions, we have improved our system"

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

9. The Committee note that as many as 28 assurances pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy are pending implementation from the year 2000 to 2011. Although the Department is aware of Manual of Parliamentary Procedures, brought out by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, which envisages detailed procedure to be followed in the matter of assurances including periodical review at various levels, the Committee, however, regret to note that the desired review was not undertaken by the Department of Atomic Energy. The contention of the representative of the Ministry, that the subject matter of the assurances being "policy matter" has been reviewed at other levels/fora, will not suffice, as the Department of Atomic Energy is duty bound to review the pending assurances as envisaged in the said Manual. The Committee are, somewhat, satisfied that the Department of Atomic Energy has at least now set up a system to review the assurances as contained in the said Manual and a very first review of the assurances has also been done. The Committee, therefore, hope and trust that the Department of Atomic Energy will review and implement the assurances expeditiously in future.

10. During the oral evidence, the Committee examined all the 28 assurances, some of the important Assurances critically scrutinized by the Committee are given in succeeding paragraphs. These are as follows:-

(A) Amendment of Atomic Energy Act, 1962

The following questions on amendment to Atomic Energy Act, 1962 were considered while reviewing the assurances:-

- (i) USQ 3712 dated 13 December, 2012 regarding setting up of Atomic Power Plants in Private Sector.
- (ii) USQ 1937 dated 21 July, 2004 regarding Review of Atomic Energy Act.
- (iii) USQ 1095 dated 29 November 2006 regarding Private Sector in Nuclear Power Generation.
- (iv) USQ 2423 dated 22 July, 2009 regarding Indo-US Nuclear Deal.
- (v) USQ 4623 dated 8 December, 2010 regarding Review of Atomic Energy Act.
- (vi) USQ 2661 dated 17 August, 2011 regarding Review of Atomic Energy Act.

(B) Directorate of Radiation Safety

- (i) SQ 404 dated 25 August, 2010 regarding Radio Active Materials

(A) Amendment of Atomic Energy Act, 1962

11. The Committee noted that the first assurances regarding Amendment of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 was given in the year 2000 i.e., about 12 years back. The Committee, therefore, desired to know the reasons for the delay of 12 years in the implementation of the assurance. In reply the representative of the Ministry stated that:-

"Madam, we would like to submit for your consideration, this Atomic Energy Act process started long back. It has come to Prime Minister's level at least four times, to Cabinet level two times, to Cabinet Secretary level a large number of times. Then there have been a lot of developments in the process of amendments of the Act and as you are aware, Madam, certain incidents had taken place in Delhi and then a through review of whatever we had done was done. When the Bill came to the Cabinet, it was thoroughly reviewed. In the context of Fukushima incident, the Prime Minister gave a statement that a separate Bill on safety aspects will be brought in. Safety aspects were earlier within the purview of the Atomic Energy Act. So, the entire exercise was again taken up....."

12. He further stated:-

"As the opening up of international nuclear commerce has been very long drawn on this issue the Government and various organs of the States have been very-very actively involved. I would like to submit that the impression should not be that there has been any inaction on the part of the Government or the Executive in this"

13. The Committee then pointed out that even after undertaking exercise for amending the said Act, the desired results were not forthcoming. In reply, the representative of the Ministry stated that:-

"That is in fact the key point that things in nuclear energy have been changing very rapidly"

14. The representative of the Ministry, however, further stated as follows:-

"I would like to submit that the entire Bill and the overall review has not come. That is the fact. In between one part came to both the Houses and became the Act. The second part has not come. So my humble submission is that this is an on-going exercise....."

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

15. The Committee note that as many as six assurances are pending for want of amendment in the Atomic Energy Act, 1962. The first assurance on the subject was given in reply to USQ No. 3712 dated 13 December, 2000 regarding Setting up of Atomic Power Plants in Private Sector and, thereafter, five other assurances on the subject were given on the floor of the House. As regard to the amendment to the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, the Committee are pained to note that even after lapse of a considerable time period of 12 years and the matter being reviewed/discussed several times at different levels in the Government the Act, 1962 could not be amended. The Committee are also constrained to note that the process of amendment to the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 has further suffered a set back, in view of the accident at Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant as such the 'safety aspect' has also to be incorporated. The Department of Atomic Energy are now in the process of bringing comprehensive amendments to the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, covering the remaining important aspects. The Committee are of the view that the matter be accorded utmost priority and the amendments in the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 be expedited and the pending assurances on the subject implemented.

(B) Directorate of Radiation Safety

SQ 404 dated 25 August, 2010 regarding Radio Active Materials.

16. The assurance was given in the year 2010, wherein the Hon'ble Member (Shri Abdul Rehman) asked a supplementary question about steps taken by the Government to set up Directorate of Radiation Safety. In reply, the Minister concerned stated that "I do not have the information right now. I will give him the information as to which States have implemented it." The Committee accordingly desired to know about the steps taken by the Department of Atomic Energy in this regard. In reply, the representative of the Ministry stated that:-

"This question actually refers to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board who is responsible for management of the safe operation of the radiological facility in the whole country. This question refers to particularly setting up of installations of AERB in different States. At the moment, the Directorate of Radiation Safety has been set up by them in the States of Kerala and Mizoram. AERB has also signed MoUs with the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Gujarat for establishment of similar facilities. So, this is a work which is in progress and this will go on for some more time. As a first step the process has already been started."

17. The Committee then desired to know whether the Directorate of Radiation Safety falls under the Department of Atomic Energy. In reply, the representative of the Ministry stated that:-

"It is a part of the Atomic Energy Regulation Board"

18. When asked whether the x-rays and other diagnostic machines using ionized radiations needs registration and the process to be followed for registration installed in various parts of the country, the representative of the Ministry stated that:-

"All x-rays units need to be registered by the regulatory body. There has to be a radiological safety person employed by the people."

19. The representative further submitted as follows:-

"Under the Atomic Energy Act, there is a provision where rules have been made that is called 'the Atomic Energy(Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004.' As per those rules, every such activity like x-ray machines, etc. needs to be registered. If they do not register, then that is called the non-compliance of the regulations. All these activities come under the purview of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board."

20. At the subsequent sitting of the Committee held on 20 July, 2012 a representative of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board appeared before the Committee and *inter-alia* submitted on the issues as follows:-

"The fact is that there are more than 50,000 facilities all over the country and it was recognized the AERB Headquarter alone cannot handle this. So, therefore, State level Directorates of Radiation Safety were mooted. We have been following up with States consistently..... we are enhancing the control over supplies or manufactures by increasing their responsibilities..... we are now making arrangements with DGFT to track the import of x-ray tubes..... so this will help as in tracing any unauthorized

manufacturers of x-rays equipment..... then there is one very important thing which we are introducing is the web based on-live interactive system of registration. "

21. On being asked about the inspections of x-ray units it was submitted as follows:-

"Our total inspection have been of the order of 600 out which for x-ray facilities.....80....."

22. The Committee were surprised to note that only 80 inspections out of 50,000 x-ray facilities were done and doubted that there can be about 1,00,000 x-ray facilities in the country. In reply the representative of the Ministry stated that:-

"It could be, it is possible."

23. The representative further submitted:-

.....radiation is the mandate of the Department of Atomic Energy or AERB. In fact, we have a time line and our target is that in three years time, all the x-ray facilities will be under very good control. Three years is the time-frame we have given.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

24. The Committee note that an important assurance regarding setting up of Directorate of Radiation Safety (DRS) in all the States is pending implementation. The Committee find that the Directorate of Radiation Safety has been set up so far in the States of Kerala and Mizoram only. Further, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has signed Memorandum of understanding with the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Gujarat for establishment of similar facilities. The Committee regret to note that except two states *i.e.* Kerala and Mizoram, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board could not establish Directorate of Radiation Safety in rest of the States. Further as regard to compulsory registration of 'x-ray' C.T. units and other diagnostic tools using ionized radiations, for medical, industrial and other usages, the Committee have found a very dismal picture despite enforcement of the Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004. The said rules envisage registration of such units. Failure to registration amounts to non-compliance of the regulations. The representative of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board informed the Committee that more than 50,000 x-ray and other diagnostic tools using ionized radiations exists in the country.

Sadly, not more than 80 units have been inspected for complying with the provisions of the Rule. The Committee are perturbed to note that at present the registration of the x-ray and other units using ionized radiation is totally in anarchy. The Committee regret to conclude that the overall position in the matter is totally unsatisfactory and needs corrective action without any further delay. They, therefore, desire that the Department should not only streamline the system of registration but also disseminate the information regarding detailed procedure to be followed by the users for the compulsory registration of x-ray and other units, throughout the country.

**MANEKA GANDHI
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**

NEW DELHI;
30 August, 2012

Bhadrapada 8, 1934 (Saka)

Appendix-I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3712

ANSWERED ON 13.12.2000

**SETTING UP OF ATOMIC POWER PLANTS IN PRIVATE
SECTOR**

3712 . Shri RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL

(a) whether the Government contemplate to amend the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to rope in participation of private sector in the setting up of the atomic energy plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the amended act is likely to take effect?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SMT. VASUNDHARA RA)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The process of reviewing the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 (AE Act) and suggesting amendments with a view to, inter-alia, enable private sector participation in the production and supply of nuclear power, is currently underway. After finalising its review, Government will introduce a bill in both the Houses of Parliament to amend the concerned sections of the Act.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1937

ANSWERED ON 21.07.2004

REVIEW OF ATOMIC ENERGY ACT

1937 Shri VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to review the Atomic Energy Act;**
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and**
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken in the said matter?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (c) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1095

ANSWERED ON 29.11.2006

PRIVATE SECTOR IN NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION

1095 . Shri JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow private sector participation including foreign countries and MNCs in the production of nuclear power;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps contemplated to provide due security to the nuclear power plants and connected infrastructure?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PRIME MINISTER `S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVI CHAVAN)

(a) & (b): A proposal to amend the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to enable private sector participation in nuclear power generation in the country is currently under consideration of the Government. However, no final decision has been taken.

(c) Adequate security measures for physical protection of the facilities are already in place at our nuclear power plants and connected infrastructure. The same measures would apply to all nuclear power plants.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1486

ANSWERED ON 29.10.2008

SETTING UP NUCLEAR PLANT IN NORTH-EAST REGION

1486 . Smt. P. JAYA PRADA NAHATA

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a Committee to study the techno-economic feasibility of setting up a nuclear plant in the Northeast Region;**
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by this committee;**
- (c) whether the safety and security aspects required in respect of these have been adequately addressed to; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (d) A Study Group has been constituted to explore the possibility of setting up a nuclear power reactor in Meghalaya/North East Region. This is essentially to evaluate a site and check the suitability of current designs of nuclear power reactors. Response of Government of Meghalaya is awaited for interaction in this regard.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 671

ANSWERED ON 08.07.2009

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN THE COUNTRY

671 . Shri GURUDAS DAS GUPTA

THALIKKOTTAI RAJUTHEVAR BAALU

SUPRIYA SULE

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether there is inordinate delay in completion of the first phase of the Kudankulam Power Project;**
- (b) if so, the details of the completion schedule and the reasons for the delay;**
- (c) whether there is any proposal to start the second phase of the project;**
- (d) if so, the time schedule therefor;**
- (e) whether negotiations have been held/are being held with some foreign countries including USA and Russia for setting up more nuclear power plants in the country; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and capacity-wise?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGES), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

- (a) & (b) The progress of the Kudankulam Project has been affected due to delay in delivery of equipment. The project is now expected to be completed in 2010-11.**
- (c) & (d) Consequent to conclusion of intergovernmental agreement between India & the Russian Federation, additional units are proposed to be set up at Kudankulam. Preliminary discussions have been held at Company level, to finalize a Detailed Project Report (DPR). The Schedule and other details will be known only after DPR is finalized.**
- (e) & (f) The discussions held at company level between Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) and companies from France, USA and Russian Federation covered preliminary aspects of technical, organisational, commercial and other issues and no specific decisions have been taken.**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2423

ANSWERED ON 22.07.2009

INDO-US NUCLEAR DEAL

2423 . Shri B. Y. RAGHAVENDRA

RAJIV RANJAN (LALAN) SINGH

JAGDISH SHARMA

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) the present status of the Indo-US nuclear deal;**
- (b) whether the US Government has put any conditions recently before implementing the Indo-US nuclear deal;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;**
- (d) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to enact any law or to carry any amendment in the existing law relating to nuclear field;**
- (e) if so the details thereof, including the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof;**
- (f) the measures taken by the Government to implement the deal?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGES), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a), b & (c) The Agreement for Co-operation between the Government of India and the Government of USA Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed on 10.10.2008. On 6th December, 2008 diplomatic notes were issued by the Government of India and the United States of America, to bring this agreement into effect. Both the parties are committed to implement the Agreement on the agreed terms.

(d) & (e) Proposal to amend the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and also a draft civil nuclear liability legislation are under consideration of the Government.

(f) In accordance with the Agreement for Co-operation between the Government of India and the Government of USA Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, India and United States of America have appointed their respective points of contact for the Administrative Arrangements for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Agreement.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3335

ANSWERED ON 09.12.2009

SETTING UP OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

3335 . Shri ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) and the Indian Oil Corporation have signed memorandum of understanding to set up nuclear power plant;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the capacity of proposed nuclear power plant;**
- (d) whether the site has been identified for setting up of proposed nuclear power plant; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

- (a) Yes, Sir.**
- (b) NPCIL & IOCL have signed an MoU to work out a possible agreement for collaboration in nuclear power.**
- (c) to (e) These details are yet to be finalized.**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 931

ANSWERED ON 03.03.2010

FIRE IN BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE

931 . Shri DATTA RAGHOBAJI MEGHE

SATHYANARAYANA SARVEY

MILIND MURLI DEORA

ASADUDDIN OWAISI

SUKHDEV SINGH

RANJAN PRASAD YADAV

BHOLA SINGH

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether a major fire broke out at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Mumbai leading to the death of two young scientists` ;**
- (b) if so, the main reason of the fire;-**
- (c) whether the Government has constituted a Committee to look into.the causes of fire;**
- (d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and**
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to avoid such incidents in future esp in highly protected sensitive security zones?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE FOR PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

- (a) A fire ` incident took place on December 29, 2009 in one of the chemical laboratories in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) resulting in the death of two Ph.D. Students.**
- (b) Reason for the fire accident as indicated by the report of investigation Committee set up by BARC is low intensity explosive energy released from accidental mixing of small quantities of highly reactive chemicals stored in the Chemical laboratory.**
- (c) Yes, Sir. A Committee has been set up by BARC to inquire into the causes of fire. The Committee is also conducting forensic and other investigations.**

(d) & (e) The BARC Investigation committee has made several recommendations to prevent recurrence of similar incidents. Remedial measures have also been recommended to improve not only safety but also the emergency response to an incident, which can prevent escalation of an incident and can mitigate the consequences. BARC Safety Council is taking further steps for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee to enhance the safety status of laboratories.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 936

ANSWERED ON 03.03.2010

ATOMIC PLANTS WITH US COOPERATION

936 . Shri J.M. AARON RASHID

ARJUN MUNDA

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has identified locations for setting up of atomic power plants with the cooperation of United States of America;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated, plant-wise;**
- (c) the progress made in acquisition of land in various States for this propose;and**
- (d) the time by which the plants are likely to be made operational?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MIISTRY OF PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC RELATIONS, GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes; Sir

(b) Two sites, one at Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh and another at Chhayamithi Viridi in Gujarat have been approved `in principle` for setting up nuclear power plants based, on cooperation with the United States of America. The requirement of funds for the projects has not been finalized yet. However, a provision of Rs.850 crore for each of the sites has been proposed in the Mid Term Appraisal of the XI Plan (2007-12).

(c) The land acquisition process has just started. The consultation with the states, appointing nodal agencies and survey to arrive at the plot plan are in progress.

(d) Presently discussions in this regard are taking place with US companies.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO 404

ANSWERED ON 25.08.2010

RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

404 . Shri ABDULRAHMAN

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) Whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has specified safe custody and disposal of radioactive materials and certain protective measures to be taken by hospitals, universities or other institutions for staff employed in the radiology departments;**
- (b) If so, the details thereof;**
- (c) Whether BARC has carried out any inspection of the radiology departments of hospitals, universities or institutions registered with BARC;**
- (d) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) The steps taken by BARC to ensure strict compliance of its guidelines by hospitals, universities or institutions which are permitted to use radioactive materials?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (e) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.404 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 25.8.2010 BY SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN REGARDING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL.

- (a) The designated body for such regulatory functions is Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has specified the requirements of safe custody, protective measures during useful life and disposal of radioactive substances.**
- (b) The requirements of safe custody, protective measures during useful life and disposal of radioactive substances are governed by Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules-2004 and Atomic Energy (Safe Disposal of Radioactive Wastes) Rules, 1987. AERB specifies the**

requirements in its Regulatory Safety Documents. These are also specified in the Authorizations issued to the institutions on a case to case basis.

(c) AERB conducts regulatory inspections of radiology departments of hospitals, universities and institutions registered as the radiation facilities licensed by it.

(d) The details of regulatory inspection of radiation facilities carried out in 2009 are as follows:

Table 1: Regulatory Inspections of radiation facilities

S.No.	Facilities	(For January to December 2009) Number of Inspections carried out
1.	Diagnostic X-ray	46
2.	Radiotherapy	11
3.	Nuclear Medicine	41
4.	Industrial Radiography	57
5.	Gamma Irradiators	15
6.	Nucleonic Gauges	07

(e) AERB implements the following steps to ensure the regulatory compliance by the facilities (hospitals, universities and institutions) which are permitted to use radioactive material.

- # Periodic routine regulatory inspections
- # Surprise inspections
- # Review of the periodic safety status reports submitted by the facilities.
- # Carry out investigations of any unusual occurrences and exposures.
- # Safety performance appraisals of the facility while renewing its license
- # Motivate the personnel of the facility for improving the radiation protection safety culture through various ways of awareness programmes.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4077

ANSWERED ON 18.08.2010

URANIUM CONTAMINATION

4077 . Shri MANISH TEWARI

MADHU GOUD YASKHI

EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD

KHATGAONKAR PATIL BHASKARRAO BAPURAO

HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether high levels of Uranium contamination has taken place in the Malwa region of Punjab;**
- (b) if so, the extent of damage caused to this region;**
- (c) whether a German company called Micro-Trace Minerals Limited has conducted a study which has revealed that hair samples of 80% of 149 neurologically disabled children contain very high levels of Uranium as reported in the media;**
- (d) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study to validate the source of Uranium contamination;**
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof;**
- (f) whether it is relatable to depleted Uranium used in military arsenal in Iraq and Afghanistan;**
- (g) if so, the details thereof;**
- (h) whether it is also a fact that very high levels of dangerous heavy metals in the water of the Malwa region has also been discerned; and**
- (i) if so, the action plan of the Government to clean up this mess in Punjab which may become another Bhopal?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

- (a) Yes, Sir. The high levels of Uranium content in drinking water in some of the locations in the Malwa region of Punjab have been observed.**

(b) Gurunanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar has been conducting extensive sampling of water samples from Malwa region of Punjab. Once detailed analysis is carried out of these samples, the impact on health can be assessed.

(c) Yes, Sir, the Government has seen media reports that a resounding document from German Microtrace Mineral Lab has revealed that hair samples of 80% of 149 neurologically disabled children mainly from southern Malwa region have high levels of Uranium.

(d) & (e) Gurunanak Dev University (GNDU) is conducting a study under the Board of Research in Nuclear Science (BRNS) project of the Department of Atomic Energy.

(f) & (g) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) analysed a few samples for Uranium isotopes and their contents. The study shows that the Uranium present in the water samples is natural Uranium and not depleted Uranium.

(h) &(i) The study carried out by GNDU, Amritsar and Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana shows that the ground water is contaminated with heavy metals like As, Pb, Cd and Ni in Malwa region. The levels of these heavy metals are higher than the levels prescribed by WHO in drinking water.

Department of Atomic Energy awarded a BRNS project to Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar for a comprehensive study for Uranium content in various environmental matrices including groundwater and surface water.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4112

ANSWERED ON 18.08.2010

EXPLORATION OF URANIUM AND PLUTONIUM

4112 . Shri RAMSINHBHAI PATALBHAI RATHWA

GHANSYAM ANURAGI

P. BALRAM

SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government through its agencies has successfully identified new reserves of Plutonium and Uranium in various parts of the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantity of these metals explored during the above period, location-wise and area-wise; and

(c) the steps initiated by the Government to further refine these metals for peaceful use in nuclear plants?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a)&(b) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Hyderabad, a constituent Unit of the Department of Atomic Energy, carried out survey and exploration for uranium in India and has established 1,47,898 tonnes of uranium deposits as on 31.05.2010. During the last three years the uranium resources established by AMD are as follows.

AREA	STATE	2007-08	2008-09	(FIGURES IN TONNES)
				2009-10
ROHIL	RAJASTHAN	547	220	795
KOPPUNURU	ANDHRA PRADESH	1,228	-	293
PEDDAGATTU	ANDHRA PRADESH	1,407	-	854
TUMMALAPALLE	ANDHRA PRADESH	1,690	12,007	14,131
CHITRIAL	ANDHRA PRADESH	-	-	440
GOGI	KARNATAKA	-	449	-

LOSTOIN	MEGHALAYA	-	12	7
	Total:	4,872	12,688	16,520

Plutonium does not occur in nature. Plutonium is produced by nuclear transmutation in nuclear reactors. Thus, resources of plutonium can not be established by survey and exploration.

(c) At Tummalapalle, Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh, Uranium mine is under construction by Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy. In Gogi, Gulbarga District, Karnataka, exploratory mining is in progress to delineate the ore body configuration and for recovery of bulk samples for development of feasibility study sheet for recovery of Uranium. At Peddagattu-Lambapur, Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh, Rohil, Sikar District, Rajasthan and Warkyn, West Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya, exploratory mining is under consideration.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4609

ANSWERED ON 25.08.2010

JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN NPCIL AND NTPC

4609 . Shri SOMENDRA NATH MITRA

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has entered into any agreement with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to form a joint venture to set up nuclear power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location wise;

(c) the States where these nuclear power plants are proposed to be set up and their expected production capacity; and

(d) the total funds required for these power plants?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a)to(d) While an agreement for formation of a Joint Venture Company (JVC) for setting up nuclear power reactors has been signed between NPCIL & NTPC, the JVC is yet to be incorporated. The details regarding site, project, funds etc. will be finalised after incorporation of the JVC.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2444

ANSWERED ON 24.11.2010

**PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN NUCLEAR
POWER SECTOR**

2444 . Shri MANOHAR TIRKEY

PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR

R. THAMARAISELVAN

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has decided not to allow private sector participation in the atomic energy sector;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether some private sector companies have shown interest in this field;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether the Government proposes to acquire uranium assets abroad by forging joint ventures with other companies; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

(a) & (b) The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 gives power to Central Government to produce, develop and dispose of atomic energy either by itself or through any authority or corporation established by it or a Government company in which not less than 51% of the paid up share capital is held by the Central Government. At present Indian private sector can participate in nuclear power generation projects as a minority partner. For the present, participation of Indian private sector in nuclear power generation projects will continue to be as per the existing provisions of Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

(c) & (d) Some organizations in the private sector have, at various fora indicated their interest in nuclear power generation. At present companies in Private sector in India are participating in a major way in setting up nuclear power plants through supply of components, equipment and engineering works contracts.

(e) & (f) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd and Uranium Corporation of India Ltd- Public Sector Undertakings of Department of Atomic Energy are considering to form joint venture companies to explore the possibility of acquiring the uranium assets abroad.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4623
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2010
REVIEW OF ATOMIC ENERGY ACT

4623

Shri RAJIAH SIRICILLA

.

HARISCHANDRA DEORAM CHAVAN

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to review the Atomic Energy Act;**
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and**
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken in the said matter?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

(a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government is reviewing the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 including for strengthening the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and for carrying out responsibilities relating to ratification of Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM). This is under examination in the Department.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4627

ANSWERED ON 08.12.2010

ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCE TO POWER PROJECTS

4627 . Shri RAKESH SINGH

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) had submitted a proposal for obtaining environmental clearance of Atomic Power Projects at village Chutka in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the present status of the project; and

(c) the time by which environmental clearance is likely to be obtained?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

(a) to(c) NPCIL had submitted Terms of Reference (TOR) for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the project at village Chutka in Madhya Pradesh to the Expert Appraisal Committee, Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoE&F). The committee has advised NPCIL to provide additional details on land use and environmental setting of site. The revised TORs are under finalization. This will be followed by EIA Report by the MoE&F accredited agency, a public hearing and detailed scrutiny by the Expert Advisory Committee before environmental clearance is accorded by MOE&F. The plan is to commence work on the project, after obtaining statutory clearances by MoE&F and Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, in the year 2012.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO 301

ANSWERED ON 24.08.2011

NUCLEAR SAFETY

301 . Shri BHUDEO CHOUDHARY

SAMBASIVA RAYAPATI RAO

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the shore protection measures put in place in respect of the atomic power stations located near the sea coast;**
- (b) whether the Government is equipped with the latest equipment to check the radiation from the atomic plants;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action contemplated in this regard;**
- (d) whether the recommendations made by the task forces set up by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) have been accepted; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken by the Government on the same**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.301 BY SHRI BHUDEO CHOUDHARY AND SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO REGARDING NUCLEAR SAFETY FOR AN ATOMIC POWER STATION ON 24.08.2011

(a) Atomic power stations in coastal areas are designed taking into account the technical parameters related to earthquake, Tsunami, storm surges, wave run up, floods, tides etc. Power stations are, therefore, equipped with facilities to handle such design basis eventualities. The shore protection measures also include construction of civil structures like break waters, bunds, etc. to minimize the effect of some of these natural events.

(b) Yes sir.

(c) These include area radiation monitors located inside and outside the reactor and auxiliary buildings. The radiation monitoring is also done through Environmental Survey Laboratories established to monitor various radiation related parameters in air, water, soil, crops, fish, etc. upto 30 kms. around.

(d)&(e) Recommendations of the Task Force relating to augmentation of existing provisions e.g. hook-up arrangements through external sources for addition of cooling water to primary transport system and steam generators; increasing the duration of passive power sources, battery operated devices for monitoring important parameters for a longer duration; augmentation of water inventory; additional shore protection measures are under implementation. In respect of the recommendations relating to automatic shutdown on severe seismic activity; inerting of TAPS-1&2 containment etc., the matter is being taken up with regulatory authority for clearance / approval.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 471

ANSWERED ON 03.08.2011

PROBLEMS OF INDIAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

471 . Shri RAMSINHBHAI PATALBHAI RATHWA

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Indian Nuclear Industry has been struggling with tackling the embargoes;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government is aware that most of our Research and Development efforts have been spent on import substitution due to lack of infrastructure and resources;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether Indian reactor technology would take a long time and efforts to come to the international level; and**
- (f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

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

(a)&(b): No, Sir. The Indian nuclear industry is now well matured and does not have to struggle for tackling the embargos for meeting the needs of Indian nuclear power programme, based on Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs).

(c)&(d): Almost every aspect of nuclear engineering and technology pertaining to nuclear power plants and fuel cycle has already been indigenised. The current research and development are towards development of technologies for advanced reactor systems.

(e)&(f): No, Sir. Indian nuclear reactor technologies are already on par with the international standards. With the opening of international nuclear commerce, India is considering to build large sized nuclear power plants (1000 MWe or larger light water reactors) in technical collaboration.

with some foreign vendors mainly to facilitate a faster growth of the nuclear power progra

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 636

ANSWERED ON 03.08.2011

ESTABLISHMENT OF NUCLEAR PLANTS

636 . Shri GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA SIDDESWARA

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government is entering into collaboration with many countries for establishing nuclear plants and import of uranium;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage of negotiations in each of the aforesaid cases?

ANSWER

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

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. Light Water Reactors (LWRs) of 1000 MW and higher capacity are planned to be set up in technical cooperation with the Russian Federation, France and the USA. The LWRs to be set up in technical cooperation with these countries are Generation III+ reactors with state-of-the-art, advanced safety features. The Government has accorded 'in principle' approval of sites and has earmarked the site for each of the technology. The details in respect of sites, technologies and plans to set up reactors in the first phase are as under:

Location and State Capacity (First phase)	Technology	To be set up in cooperation with
# Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu 2x1000	Voda-Vodyanoi-Energetichesky	Russian Federation
(KKNPP 3&4)	Reactors (VVER)	

Jaitapur, Maharashtra 2x1650	European Pressurised Reactors (EPR)	France
Kovvada, Andhra Pradesh	Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactors (ESBWR)	USA
Chhaya Mithi Virdi, Gujarat 2x1100	Advanced Passive 1000 (AP1000)	USA
Haripur, West Bengal 2x1000	Voda-Vodyanoi-Energetichesky Reactors (VVER)	Russian Federation

= Two units (KKNPP 1&2) of 1000 MW each are at advanced stage of commissioning.

For supply of natural uranium concentrates, fabricated pellets and enriched uranium pellet contracts have been signed with the suppliers from France, Russia and Kazakhstan.

(c) Discussions with the companies, Atomstroyexport of Russian Federation, Areva of France, Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC) and GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH) of USA to arrive at detailed project proposals are in progress. The negotiations on Techno Commercial Offers in respect of Kudankulam 3&4 and Jaitapur 1&2 are at an advanced stage. Discussions are in progress with WEC and GEH in respect of reactors to be set up in technical cooperation with USA.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1725

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2011

FAST BREEDER REACTOR

1725 . Shri ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has plans to set up Fast Breeder Reactors for commercial nuclear energy generation;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their location and the funds allocated for these reactors;**
- (c) whether these projects are not being completed timely;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**
- (e) whether these projects are indigenous or a joint venture;**
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (g) the time by which these reactors are likely to be commissioned?**

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is being built at Kalpakkam near Chennai in Tamilnadu with a project cost of ` 3492 crore. A proposal for upward revision of cost is under consideration. Further ` 250 crore have been allocated for pre-project activities of two more reactors at the same site.

(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. The project is delayed due to the initial setback in construction activities caused by the Tsunami and in later stages due to technological complexities in manufacturing several first of its kind equipment.

(e)&(f) The PFBR is an advanced technology reactor designed and built indigenously.

(g) The plant is expected to be commissioned in 2012.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1739

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2011

PROTEST AGAINST NUCLEAR LIABILITY LAW

1739 . Shri ARJUN ROY

ANANT KUMAR HEGDE

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether several global atomic energy companies have registered their protest against Nuclear Liability Law of India;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for opposing the said Law;**
- (c) whether in view of the said protests, the Government has taken any decision to enforce relating to the said Law; and**
- (d) if so, the details of the said rules in this regard?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Following the passage of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, some p suppliers have raised certain issues mainly relating to application of ` operators right of ree as provided in Section 17 and `Act to be in addition to any other law' as provided in Section the Act.

(c) & (d) The Government is taking necessary action to implement India`s nuclear energy programme, including nuclear power projects in technical cooperation with other countries basis of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010. The Government is also in the pro framing rules as provided under the said Act.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1758

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2011

AVAILABILITY OF THORIUM

1758 . Shri DUDHGAONKAR GANESHRAO NAGORAO

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether sufficient quantity of thorium reserves are available in the country which has the potential to serve as feedstock for an ambitious nuclear power programme;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to extract thorium and utilize it for our nuclear power programme?**

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent Unit of the Department of Atomic Energy has established 10.70 million tonnes of Monazite in the country which contains 9,63,000 tonnes of Thorium Oxide (ThO₂). Indian Monazite contains about 10% of ThO₂ and about 8,46,477 tonnes of Thorium Metal can be obtained from 9,63,000 tonnes of ThO₂ which will be used for future programmes of DAE. India is pursuing a three stage nuclear power generation programme aimed at long term energy independence based on use of our abundant Thorium resources. The programme is to use Thorium for electricity generation in the long-term. In order to realize this goal, we are well into the first stage based on our modest domestic Uranium resources. This will be followed by second stage comprising of fast reactors. It is proposed to set up a large power generation capacity based on fast reactors before getting to the third stage. Thorium in itself cannot produce electricity and it has to be first converted to Uranium-233 in a nuclear reactor. A comprehensive three-stage nuclear power programme is therefore being implemented sequentially.

(c) India has been working on the development of technologies for Utilisation of Thorium for Nuclear Power Generation since the inception of the Indian Nuclear Programme. As a part of this work, thorium has been irradiated in our Research Reactors and also in Pressurised Heavy

Reactors. Technologies for reprocessing of irradiated thorium fuel for the separation of Uranium-233 have also been developed on a pilot plant scale. Uranium-233 thus separated has been used as fuel in research reactor Purnima-II and later in the 30 Kw Research Reactor Kamini now in operation at Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research(IGCAR), a constituent Unit of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Thorium based fuel has been manufactured and located at the Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) critical facility for Reactor Physics experiments as well. Further development of technologies for large scale commercial level manufacture and reprocessing of Uranium-233 bearing fuel is underway.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1795

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2011

SETTING UP OF ATOMIC POWER PLANTS

1795 . Shri BHARAT RAM MEGHWAL

ANANTH KUMAR

BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH

JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL

HARISCHANDRA DEORAM CHAVAN

REWATI RAMAN SINGH

J. SHANTHA

MADHU KORA

KHILADI LAL BAIRWA

VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR

BHOLA SINGH

BHUDEO CHOUDHARY

DEEPA DASHMUNSI

MEENAKSHI NATRAJAN

KILLI KRUPA RANI

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY

be pleased to state:-

(a) the details of nuclear power plants in the country with installed capacity and funds spent on installation of these plants, State-wise and Plant-wise;

(b) whether the target fixed for nuclear power generation during the Eleventh Five Year plan has been achieved by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the nuclear power generation in the country;

(d) whether some of the State Governments have requested to set up nuclear power plant in their State;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government proposes to open new nuclear power plants in the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof, location-wise alongwith and estimated cost and capacity of these plants and names of companies helping in installation and other works of these plants; and

(h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for timely completion of the plants?

ANSWER

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

(a) There are 20 nuclear power reactors in operation with a total capacity of 4780 MW at present. The details are as under

State	Location	Unit	Capacity (MW)	Completion Cost in Rs. crore
Western Region				
Gujarat	Kakrapar	KAPS 1&2	2 X 220	1366.68
Maharashtra	Tarapur	TAPS-1&2	2 X 160	92.99
		TAPS-3&4	2 X 540	6525
Northern Region				
Rajasthan	Rawatbhata	RAPS 1&2	100 + 200	175.81
		RAPS 3&4	2 X 220	2511
Uttar Pradesh	Narora	RAPS 5&6	2 X 220	2362 #
		NAPS 1&2	2 X 220	723.62
Southern Region				
		Kaiga 1&2	2 X 220	2896

Karnataka	Kaiga	Kaiga 3&4	2 X220	2877 #
Tamilnadu	Kalpakkam	MAPS 1&2	2 X 220	245.87

= Provisional, final cost is under certification

(b)&(c): The target of nuclear power generation as per Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of XI Plan is 1,24,608 Million Units (MUs). The achievement till July 2011 has been 87862 MUs. The nuclear power generation in XI Plan is expected to be about 1,09,000 MUs. The shortfall has been on account of shortage of domestic fuel and delay in accessing imported fuel due to development of international cooperation in the first three years of the plan period.

Efforts put in by the government have now resulted in access to imported fuel for reactors, enhanced safety safeguards, improvement in supply of domestic fuel and in substantial improvement in the generation of nuclear power in the fourth year of the plan period (26000 MUs in 2010-11).

(d): Yes, Sir.

(e): In the recent past, sites have been offered by the following states:

State	Place
Andhra Pradesh	Pulivendla Nizampatnam
Bihar	Rajauli
Haryana	Balsamand Kitlana
Karnataka	Mannur

The evaluation of these sites by the Standing Site Selection Committee of the Government is in progress at various stages.

(f): Yes, Sir.

(g): Currently, seven nuclear power reactors with a capacity of 5300 MW are under construction. The details of the plants under construction are given below:

Project	Location	Capacity (MW) & Type	Approved Cost crore	Expected Completion
---------	----------	-------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------

KK-1&2	Kudankulam, Tamilnadu	2X1000 Vodo-Vodyanoi- Energetichesky Reactors (VVERs)	13171#	2011-
PFBR	Kalpakkam, Tamilnadu	500 Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)	3492#	2012-
KAPP 3&4	Kakrapar, Gujarat	2X700 Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs)	11459	2015-
RAPP 7&8	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	2X700 Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs)	12320	2016-
#	=	under revision		

Government has also accorded 'in principle' approval for five new sites and utilisation of the potential of Kudankulam and Jaitapur sites in October 2009. The details of these sites are given below:

Location & State	In technical cooperation with Company & Country	Capacity (MW) in first phase	Total Capacity (MW)
Gorakhpur, Haryana	Indigenous	2 X 700	4 X 700
Chutka, Madhya Pradesh	Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, India	2 X 700	2 X 700
Kudankulam, Tamilnadu	Atomstroyexport (ASE), Russian Federation	2 X 1000	6 X 1000
Haripur, West Bengal		2 X 1000	6 X 1000
Jaitapur, Maharashtra	Areva, France	2 X 1650	6 X 1650
Kovvada, Andhra Pradesh	GE Hitach Nuclear Energy (GEH), USA	2 X 1000#	6 X 1000#
Chhaya Mithi Virdi, Gujarat	Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC), USA	2 X 1000#	6 X 1000#
#	=	Nominal Capacity	

Currently, pre-project activities including preparation of Detailed Project proposals are in progress. Discussions are in progress with the technology vendor companies in respect of to be set up with foreign technical cooperation. The costs of the projects will be known after finalization of the project proposals.

The Government has also approved setting up two 500 MW Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) at Kalpakkam, Tamilnadu. These indigenous FBRs will be set up by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI).

Recently, the Government has accorded 'in principle' approval for four more sites for indigenous PHWRs, to be set up by NPCIL:

Location & State	Capacity (MW)	Remarks
Mahi Banswara, Rajasthan 2X700 MW	4 X 700	New site, Planned in two phases
Bhimpur, Madhya Pradesh phases of 2X700 MW	4 X 700	New site, Planned in two phases
Kaiga, Karnataka # operation	2 X 700	Existing site. 4X220 MW are in operation
Narora, Uttar Pradesh # in operation	2 X 700	Existing site. 2X220 MW are in operation
#	=	Expansion at existing sites

(h): All the requirements of embarking on large nuclear power programme and completing projects on time are being addressed. In respect of indigenous projects, the capability and capacity of Indian industry to supply equipment and components generally exist. It is being augmented by formation of Joint Ventures. A Joint Venture for turbogenerators of 700 MW is proposed to be set up between NPCIL, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and M/s. AEG France. A Joint Venture between NPCIL and M/s Larsen Toubro Limited (L&T) has been incorporated to manufacture special steels and forgings required for manufacture of nuclear components. The human resources are also being developed for the programme in a planned manner.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1827

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2011

RADIATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRES

1827 . KILLI KRUPA RANI

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has set up/ proposes to set up a network of radiation emergency response centres in different parts of the country to deal with nuclear emergency situation**
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cost involved, location-wise;**
- (c) the benefits likely to be accrued as a result thereof; and**
- (d) the time by which such centres are likely to be made operational in the country, location-wise?**

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) The Government has set up twenty Emergency Response Centres (DAE-ERCs) at the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) locations. These have been developed to be in preparedness for response to any nuclear and radiological emergencies affecting the public domain. They are also meant to provide appropriate advice to the administration/local security agencies regarding the counter/rescue measures etc., required in the event of any radiation field / contamination in public domain either due to any accident or by deliberate acts. It is proposed to establish 10 more ERCs - 2 more at DAE sites and 8 at National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) sites.

Training of the "First Responders" from NDRF on "Response to nuclear/radiological emergencies" is also conducted by the ERCs.

The Emergency Response Centres (ERCs) are equipped with various radiation monitoring systems for quick assessment of the radiological status by the Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) comprising of Radiation Safety Experts of the DAE. Total cost incurred in establishing 20 ERCs including training of ERTs is ` 12 crore, with annual maintenance of these ERCs is ` 30 lakh.

(c) This will strengthen emergency preparedness and response capability at National level will enable the first responders from NDRF/Police or any other agencies to get proper advice and guidance in the event of any nuclear and radiological emergency in public domain.

(d) Details of 20 ERCs, already fully operational, are as follows:

- 1. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, (BARC), Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- 2. Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS), Tarapur, Maharashtra**
- 3. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS), Kakrapar, Gujarat,**
- 4. Kaiga Generating Station (KGS), Kaiga, Karnataka**
- 5. Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS), Kota, Rajasthan**
- 6. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Jaipur, Rajasthan**
- 7. Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS), Narora, Uttar Pradesh**
- 8. Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), Aluva, Kerala**
- 9. Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), Jaduguda, Jharkhand**
- 10. Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC), Kolkatta, West Bengal**
- 11. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Shillong, Meghalaya**
- 12. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Nagpur, Maharashtra**
- 13. Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh**
- 14. Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), Kalpakkam, Tamilnadu**
- 15. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Bengaluru, Karnataka**
- 16. Raja Ramanna Centre for Advance Technology (RRCAT), Indore, Madhya Pradesh**
- 17. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Delhi, NCT**
- 18. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP), Kudankulam, Tamilnadu**
- 19. Rare Materials Project (RMP), Mysore, Karnataka**
- 20. Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) , Gandhinagar, Gujarat**

Additional ERCs are proposed at 10 locations and are likely to be operational within 1-2 years.

Locations of proposed DAE-ERCs are:

- 1. Chatrapur, Orissa**
- 2. Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**

Locations of proposed NDRF ERCs

- 1. Kolkata, West Bengal**
- 2. Arakkonam, Tamilnadu**
- 3. Pune, Maharashtra**
- 4. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh**
- 5. Guwahati, Assam**
- 6. Mundali, Orissa**
- 7. Gandhinagar, Gujarat**
- 8. Bhatinda, Punjab**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2572

ANSWERED ON 17.08.2011

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON CSC

2572 . Shri PRADEEP KUMAR MAJHI

KISHANBHAI VESTABHAI PATEL

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the United States want India to ratify the international Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) on nuclear damages by the end of this year;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;**
- (c) the reasons for raising ratification by US on CSC; and**
- (d) the time by which India proposes to ratify the provisions in CSC as demanded by US?**

ANSWER

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

(a)to(d) India signed the International Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) on nuclear damages on 27th October 2010. India is committed to ratifying CSC by the end of 2011.

Ratification of CSC will facilitate US-based companies to enter into technical cooperation with Indian Government companies for building nuclear power plants.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2661

ANSWERED ON 17.08.2011

REVIEW OF ATOMIC ENERGY ACT

2661 Shri P.C. GADDIGOUDAR
.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to review/change the Atomic Energy Act;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and**
- (c) the time by which a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) A proposal for the amendment of the Atomic Energy Act 1962 is under consideration of the Government. A decision regarding this is possible only after taking all relevant factors into account.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2695

ANSWERED ON 17.08.2011

NUCLEAR REGULATORY AUTHORITY

2695 . Shri S. RAMASUBBU

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a new Regulatory Authority to oversee the functioning of nuclear plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new authority is likely to be set up?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Government of India attaches the highest importance to nuclear safety and will take the necessary measures to ensure the safety of our plants. For the creation of a statutory nuclear safety authority `The Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority Bill` is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 5643

ANSWERED ON 07.09.2011

SAFETY OF JAITAPUR ATOMIC PLANT

5643 . Shri E. T. MUHAMMED BASHEER

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the safety and security aspects of proposed Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant in the light of nuclear accident in Fukushima, Japan;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the estimated nuclear waste likely to be generated per annum from the plant and the steps taken/proposed to be taken for safe disposal of the waste and also to prevent the radiation;**
- (d) whether the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission`s (USNRC) concerns about safety of the computer system in the reactor has been taken into consideration; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the Government`s reaction thereto alongwith the follow up action taken in this regard?**

ANSWER

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

(a)&(b) Review of safety aspects in the proposed Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant is being carried out by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) deputed expert Committee for assessing the technology and the safety aspects of Evolutionary Pressurized Reactors (EPRs). The Committee carefully examined these issues and visited the plants under construction in Finland and France. The Committee also had discussions with regulatory authorities in Finland and France. The Committee's report placed in the AEC meeting has cleared all doubts regarding safety and efficiency.

Subsequent to the Fukushima (Japan) incident, safety review of the EPRs is underway in Finland and will be further reviewed by AERB.

(c) The total volume of solid waste expected to be generated by the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant would be within 0.15 cu.m. per year per MW. The nuclear waste handling, treatment, storage and disposal is being reviewed by AERB.

disposal will be as per the well laid down procedures and guidelines stipulated by the AERB

(d)&(e) On review by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), it was found that originally proposed computer systems needed further reinforcement to meet the regulatory requirements. Similar observations were also expressed by other regulators like USNRC (USA), STUK (Finland), HSE (UK), ASN (France). Accordingly, modifications of computer systems for Control & Instrumentation architecture in respect of EPR units to be set up at Jaitapur site have been done to meet all the safety and regulatory requirements of AERB.

Appendix-II
(Vide Para 5)

Extracts from Manual of Practice & Procedure in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, New Delhi

Definition

8.1 During the course of reply given to a question or a discussion, if a Minister gives an undertaking which involves further action on the part of the Government in reporting back to the House, it is called an 'assurance'. Standard list of such expressions which normally constitute assurances and as approved by the Committees on Government Assurances of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, is given at Annex 3. As assurances are required to be implemented within a specified time limit, care should be taken by all concerned while drafting replies to the questions to restrict the use of these expressions only to those occasions when it is clearly intended to give an assurance in these terms.

8.2 When an assurance is given by a Minister or when the Presiding Officer directs the Government to furnish information to the House, it is extracted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from the relevant proceedings and communicated to the department concerned normally within 10 working days of the date on which it is given.

**Deletion
from the
list of
assurances**

8.3.1 If the administrative department has any objection to treating such a statement as an assurance or finds that it would not be in the public interest to fulfil it, it may write to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat direct with a copy to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs within a week of the receipt of such communication for getting it deleted from the list of assurances. Such action will require prior approval of the Minister.

8.3.2 Departments should make request for dropping of assurances immediately on receipt of statement of assurances from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and only in rare cases where they are fully convinced that the assurances could not be implemented under any circumstances and there is no option left with them but to make a request for dropping. Such requests should have the approval of their Minister and this fact should be indicated in their communication containing the request. If such a request is made towards the end of the stipulated

period of three months, then it should invariably be accompanied with a request for extension of time. The department should continue to seek extension of time till a decision of the Committee on Government Assurances is received by them. Copy of the above communications should be simultaneously endorsed to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Time limit
for fulfilling
and
assurance

8.4.1 An assurance given in either House is required to be fulfilled within a period of three months from the date of the assurance. This time limit has to be strictly observed.

Extension
of time for
fulfilling an
assurance

8.4.2 If the department finds that it is not possible to fulfil the assurance within the stipulated period of three months or within the period of extension already granted, it may seek further extension of time direct from the respective Committee on Government Assurances under intimation to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as soon as the need for such extension becomes apparent, indicating the reasons for delay and the probable additional time required. Such a communication should be issued with the approval of the Minister.

Registers
of
assurances

8.5.1 The particulars of every assurance will be entered by the Parliament Unit of the department concerned in a register as at Annex 4 after which the assurance will be passed on to the concerned section.

8.5.2 Even ahead of the receipt of communication from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the section concerned should take prompt action to fulfil such assurances and keep a watch thereon in a register as at Annex 5.

8.5.3 The registers referred to in paras 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 will be maintained separately for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha assurances, entries therein being made session wise.

Role of
Section
Officer and
Branch
Officer

8.6.1 The Section Officer incharge of the concerned section will:

- (a) scrutinise the registers once a week;
- (b) ensure that necessary follow-up action is taken without any delay whatsoever;
- (c) submit the registers to the branch officer every fortnight if the House concerned is in session and once a month otherwise, drawing

his special attention to assurances which are not likely to be implemented within the period of three months; and

(d) review of pending assurances should be undertaken periodically at the highest level in order to minimise the delay in implementing the assurances.

8.6.2 The branch officer will likewise keep his higher officer and Minister informed of the progress made in the implementation of assurances, drawing their special attention to the causes of delay.

Procedure
for
fulfilment
of an
assurance

8.7.1 Every effort should be made to fulfil the assurance within the prescribed period. In case only part of the information is available and collection of the remaining information would involve considerable time, an implementation report containing the available information should be supplied to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in part scrutinize of the assurance, within the prescribed time limit. However, efforts should continue to be made for expeditious collection of the remaining information for complete implementation of the assurance at the earliest.

8.7.2 Information to be supplied in partial or complete fulfilment of an assurance should be approved by the Minister concerned and 15 copies thereof (bilingual) in the prescribed proforma as at Annex 6, together with its enclosures, along with one copy each in Hindi and English duly authenticated by the officer forwarding the implementation report, should be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. If, however, the information being furnished is in response to an assurance given in reply to a question etc., asked for by more than one member, an additional copy of the completed proforma (both in Hindi and English) should be furnished in respect of

each additional member. A copy of this communication should be endorsed to the Parliament Unit for completing column 7 of its register.

8.7.3 The implementation reports should be sent to the Ministry of the Parliamentary Affairs and not to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat. No advance copies of the implementation reports are to be endorsed to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat either.

8.8 The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, after a scrutiny of the implementation report, will arrange to lay it on the Table of the House concerned. A copy of the statement, as laid on the Table, will be forwarded by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to the member as well as the department concerned. The Parliament Unit of the department concerned and the concerned section will, on the basis of this statement, make a suitable entry in their registers.

8.9 Where there is an obligation to lay any paper (rule/order/notification, etc.) on the Table of the House and for which an assurance has also been given, it will be laid on the Table, in the first instance, in fulfilment of the obligation, independent of the assurance given. After this is done, a report in formal implementation of the assurance indicating the date on which the paper was laid on the Table will be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in the prescribed proforma (Annex 6) in the manner already described in para 8.7.2.

8.10 Each House of Parliament has a Committee on Government assurances nominated by the Speaker/Chairman. It scrutinized the implementation reports and the time taken in the scrutinized of Government assurances and focuses

Laying of the implementation report on the Table of the House

Obligation to lay a paper on the Table of the House vis-à-vis assurance on the same subject

Committees on Government Assurances
LSR 323,324
RSR 211-A

Reports of
the
Committees
on
Government
Assurances
Effect on
assurances
on
dissolution
of the Lok
Sabha

attention on the delays and other significant aspects, if any, pertaining to them. Instructions issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from time to time are to be followed strictly.

8.11 The department will, in consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, scrutinize the reports of these two committees for remedial action wherever called for.

8.12 On dissolution of the Lok Sabha, all assurances, promises or undertakings pending implementation are scrutinized by the new Committee on Government assurances for selection of such of them as are of considerable public importance. The Committee then submits a report to the Lok Sabha with a specific recommendation regarding the assurances to be dropped or retained for implementation by the Government.

Annexure

MINUTES

TENTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2011-2012) held on 15 June, 2012 in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1600 hours on Friday, 15 June, 2012.

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

Members

2. Shri Hansraj G. Ahir
3. Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria
4. Shri Dara Singh Chauhan
5. Shri Bansa Gopal Chowdhury
6. Shri Ram Sundar Das
7. Smt. J. Helen Davidson
8. Shri B.K. Handique
9. Shri Ramkishun
10. Shri Jagdanand Singh
11. Shri Rajendra Agrawal

Secretariat

1. Shri P. Sreedharan - Additional Secretary
2. Shri R.S. Kambo - Director
3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan - Additional Director

Department of Atomic Energy

1. Dr. R.K. Sinha , Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) & Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
2. Shri A.P. Joshi, Special Secretary (DAE)
3. Shri S.A. Bhardwaj, Acting Chairman-cum-Managing Director, NPCIL, Mumbai
4. Dr. C.B.S. Venkataramana, Joint Secretary (R&D), DAE
5. Shri Rahul Kulshreshth, Joint Secretary(ER), DAE
6. Shri N. Nagaich, Executive Director, NPCIL, Mumbai
7. Shri A.B. Awati, Scientific Officer/H, DAE, Mumbai

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee proceeded to review the assurances listed in the agenda i.e. pending assurances upto 8th Session of 15th Lok Sabha Sl. No. 1 to 11 (Annexure). The Committee took note of absence of structured mechanism, for review of assurances periodically by the Secretary and other Senior Officers of the Department. The Committee, therefore, categorically emphasized that all the pending assurances relating to the Department be periodically reviewed at Secretary level in order to minimize the delay in the implementation of the assurances. In regard to assurance given in reply to SQ No. 404 on 25.8.2010 regarding Radio active materials, the Committee desired necessary safeguard be adopted by the personnel operating x-ray machines to prevent them from radiation exposure and registration of such x-ray units under the purview of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) or suitable regulatory body setup for the purpose in each State/U.T., since setting up of institution by AERB in various

States exists only in Kerala and Mizoram. The Committee sought certain clarifications with regard to the assurances mentioned in the Annexure which were replied to by the representatives of the Ministry. The Committee decided to review the remaining assurances later.

2. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

Annexure

STATEMENT SHOWING DETAILS OF ASSURANCES REVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE AT THEIR SITTING HELD ON 15 JUNE, 2012

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. Dated	Subject	Lok Sabha	Session
1.	*USQ No. 3712 13.12.2000	Setting up Atomic Power Plants in Private Sector	13	5
2.	*USQ No. 1937 21.07.2004	Review of Atomic Energy Act	14	2
3.	*USQ No. 1095 29.11.2006	Private Sector in Nuclear Power Generation	14	9
4.	USQ No. 1486 29.10.2008	Setting up Nuclear Plant in North-East Region	14	14
5.	USQ No. 671 08.07.2009	Nuclear Power Plants in the Country	15	2
6.	USQ No. 2423 22.07.2009	Indo-US Nuclear Deal	15	2
7.	\$USQ No. 3335 09.12.2009	Setting up of Nuclear Power Plants	15	3
8.	USQ No. 931 03.03.2010	Fire in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	15	4
9.	USQ No. 936 03.03.2010	Atomic Plants with US Cooperation	15	4
10.	SQ No. 404 25.08.2010	Radioactive Materials	15	5
11.	USQ No. 4077 18.08.2010	Uranium Contamination	15	5

*-Not dropped at the sitting held on 03.04.2008.

\$-Partly Implemented Report/Statement laid on the Table of the House on 18.08.2010.

MINUTES

ELEVENTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2011-2012) held on 20 July, 2012 in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1100 hours to 1215 hours on Friday, 20 July, 2012.

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

Members

2. Smt. J. Helen Davidson
3. Shri Sukhdev Singh Libra
4. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
5. Shri Jagdanand Singh
6. Shri Rajendra Agrawal

Secretariat

1. Shri P. Sreedharan - Additional Secretary
2. Shri R.S. Kambo - Director
3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan - Additional Director

Department of Atomic Energy

1. Dr. R.K. Sinha , Secretary, DAE
2. Dr. S.S. Bajaj, Chairman, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board
3. Shri K.C. Purohit, Chairman & Managing Director, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.
4. Shri K.A. Prasad Sinha, Joint Secretary, DAE
5. Shri P.S. Parihar, Director, Atomic Minerals Division
6. Shri N. Nagaich, Executive Director (CP&CC), NPCIL
7. Smt. Swati Pandey, Director (Parliament), DAE

At the outset the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members and apprised them about the agenda of the day.

Xxx

xxxx

xxx

2. The Committee then called the representatives of the Department of Atomic Energy and reviewed the remaining pending assurances (Sl. No. 12 to 28 as given in Annexure) upto 8th Session of 15th Lok Sabha. The Committee sought certain clarifications regarding pending assurances which were replied to by the representatives of the Department. The evidence was completed.

3. A verbatim record of the sitting has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

Annexure

STATEMENT SHOWING DETAILS OF ASSURANCES REVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE AT THEIR SITTING HELD ON 20 JULY, 2012

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. Dated	Subject	Lok Sabha	Session
1.	*USQ No. 3712 13.12.2000	Setting up Atomic Power Plants in Private Sector	13	5
2.	*USQ No. 1937 21.07.2004	Review of Atomic Energy Act	14	2
3.	*USQ No. 1095 29.11.2006	Private Sector in Nuclear Power Generation	14	9
4.	USQ No. 1486 29.10.2008	Setting up Nuclear Plant in North-East Region	14	14
5.	USQ No. 671 08.07.2009	Nuclear Power Plants in the Country	15	2
6.	USQ No. 2423 22.07.2009	Indo-US Nuclear Deal	15	2
7.	\$USQ No. 3335 09.12.2009	Setting up of Nuclear Power Plants	15	3
8.	USQ No. 931 03.03.2010	Fire in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	15	4
9.	USQ No. 936 03.03.2010	Atomic Plants with US Cooperation	15	4
10.	SQ No. 404 25.08.2010	Radioactive Materials	15	5
11.	USQ No. 4077 18.08.2010	Uranium Contamination	15	5

*-Not dropped at the sitting held on 03.04.2008.

\$-Partly Implemented Report/Statement laid on the Table of the House on 18.08.2010.

12.	USQ No. 4112 18.08.2010	Exploration of Uranium and Plutonium	15	5
13.	USQ No. 4609 25.08.2010	Joint Venture between NPCIL and NTPC	15	5
14.	USQ No. 2444 24.11.2010	Private Sector participation in Nuclear Power Sector	15	6
15.	USQ No. 4623 08.12.2010	Review of Atomic Energy Act	15	6
16.	USQ No. 4627 08.12.2010	Environment Clearance to Power Projects	15	6
17.	SQ No. 301 24.08.2011	Nuclear Safety	15	8
18.	USQ No. 471 03.08.2011	Problems of Indian Nuclear Industry	15	8
19.	USQ No. 636 03.08.2011	Establishment of Nuclear Plants	15	8
20.	USQ No. 1725 10.08.2011	Fast Breeder Reactor	15	8
21.	USQ No. 1739 10.08.2011	Protest against Nuclear Liability Law	15	8
22.	USQ No. 1758 10.08.2011	Availability of Thorium	15	8
23.	USQ No. 1795 10.08.2011	Setting up of Atomic Power Plants	15	8
24.	USQ No. 1827 10.08.2011	Radiation Emergency Response Centres	15	8

25.	USQ No. 2572 17.08.2011	International Convention on CSC	15	8
26.	USQ No. 2661 17.08.2011	Review of Atomic Energy Act	15	8
27.	USQ No. 2695 17.08.2011	Nuclear Regulatory Authority	15	8
28.	USQ No. 5643 07.09.2011	Safety of Jaitapur Atomic Plant	15	8

MINUTES

TWELFTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2011-2012) held on 30 August, 2012 in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1615 hours on Thursday, 30 August, 2012.

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

Members

2. Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria
3. Shri Sukhdev Singh Libra
4. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
5. Shri Rajendra Agrawal

Secretariat

1. Shri P. Sreedharan - Additional Secretary
2. Shri R.S. Kambo - Director

Ministry of Environment & Forests

1. Dr. T. Chatterjee, Secretary
2. Dr. P.J. Dilip Kumar, DGF & SS
3. Shri M.F. Farooqui, Special Secretary

