

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ATOMIC ENERGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4210  
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014  
SAFETY AUDIT OF ATOMIC POWER PLANTS  
Tandon Annu

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to carry out a safety audit of all atomic power plants in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is also considering to conduct a survey in the areas around atomic plants to understand the health and environmental implications; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) All the nuclear power plants in India are under continuous regulatory surveillance by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). Periodic safety audit of all atomic power plants in India is carried out by the AERB. All nuclear power projects undergo an elaborate in-depth safety review during the consenting stages, viz. siting, construction, commissioning, etc. After satisfactory review during project stage, AERB issues operating licence to a nuclear power plant for period of upto five years. During the licence period, nuclear power plants are under regulatory surveillance and their safety performance is monitored in compliance with prescribed guidelines.

A minimum of two regulatory inspections of each nuclear power plant is also carried out in a year to verify compliance with various safety requirements. A consolidated safety assessment of the plant is undertaken while renewing the operating licence.

In addition to the prescribed safety review assessments, comprehensive safety audits of all Indian nuclear power plants against external events were undertaken by AERB and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. following the Fukushima accident.

(c) & (d) The environmental matrices like air, water, soil, vegetation, crops, milk, fish, etc. around each of the nuclear power plant site are regularly monitored by an independent Environmental Survey Laboratory (ESL) set up at each of the site prior to operation of the plant. The samples for analysis are selected on the basis of potential pathways of exposure and an area upto a distance of 30 km is covered. The data collected has not indicated any measurable change in radiation levels in the environment and radioactivity in the environmental matrices compared to the base line data.

Epidemiological survey for health assessment in respect of employees and their families staying in the nearby township and villages of each of the nuclear power plant have been carried out by reputed local medical colleges and analysis has been carried out by Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai. In addition, annual medical check-ups are carried out for all workers regularly. The examinations/studies have found that the morbidity pattern of all ailments is lower than the national average of the corresponding ailments. There has also not been any rise in cancer morbidity compared to national average.