

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2319
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015
SAFE CUSTODY AND DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has specified norms/guidelines for safe custody and disposal of radioactive materials for various organisations including hospitals, universities and other institutions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether AERB has carried out any inspection of the radiology departments of hospitals, universities or institutions registered with AERB during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by AERB to ensure strict compliance of its guidelines by the above organizations/institutions?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

(a)&(b) Yes Sir. License to handle radioactive materials under Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004, is issued to applicants after fulfillment of all requirements specified by AERB, which include infrastructure and personnel for ensuring safe custody of radioactive materials. Under Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004, the employer of a radiation installation is the custodian of radiation sources in his possession and shall ensure physical security of the sources at all times. When the radiation installation ceases to be in use, the employer is required to obtain an authorization from Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for disposal/ transfer of radioactive materials.

AERB has laid down guidelines for the disposal/transfer through their Safety Codes and Guides.

(c)&(d) Yes Sir. The total number of regulatory inspections of all facilities (hospitals, universities, institutions) during the last three years and the current year are as follows:-

January 2011 to March 2011 136
April 2011 to March 2012 620
April 2012 to March 2013 997
April 2013 to March 2014 1091
April 2014 to Feb 2015 729

(e) Prior to issuance of licence for operation, AERB ensures that all pre-requisite requirements for handling the radioactive materials are met with. Thereafter, AERB ensures safety by a) carrying out periodic regulatory inspections, b) review of periodic safety status reports submitted by the licensee, c) review of safety status during source procurement, and d) enforcement actions in case of non-compliances.