

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:413
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015
INSPECTION OF NUCLEAR SITES
Reddy Shri Ch. Malla;Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has inspected India's regulatory framework for safety of various nuclear plants in the country recently;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the IAEA has recommended that Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) should be given more independence to enable it to function as a true regulator free from the influence of other bodies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government to accord functional and financial freedom including grant of autonomous or statutory status to AERB?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.#413 REGARDING "INSPECTION OF NUCLEAR SITES" FOR ANSWER ON 22.04.2015

(a)&(b) Yes Sir. The Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) carried out international peer review of safety practices followed at the nuclear power plants at units 3 & 4 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS - 3 & 4) from October 29 to November 14, 2012. Subsequently, a follow up OSART mission was held at RAPS - 3 & 4 during 3 - 7 February, 2014 to review the status of implementation of the suggestions and recommendations from the earlier OSART peer review mission.

Recently in March 2015, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) hosted an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission of IAEA, for review of the regulatory framework related to Nuclear Power Plants. As part of this mission, the IRRS team members visited the operating and under construction Nuclear Power Plants at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) along with the Regulatory Inspection team of AERB for observing inspection practices of AERB and the on-site emergency preparedness arrangements at KAPS.

(c)&(d) After the recent Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) peer review mission of IAEA to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), the IRRS mission has acknowledged that AERB has functional independence as a regulator. The IRRS Mission has further recommended embedding the independence of AERB in law, by strengthening the legislative frame work for establishment of the regulatory body.

Government introduced the Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority (NSRA) Bill, 2011 in the Lok Sabha on 7 September 2011. AERB has functional independence and reports to the Atomic Energy Commission. By enacting NSRA Act, the functional independence of AERB will be converted into de jure independence. The Bill could not be taken up for consideration due to dissolution of 15th Lok Sabha. With the formation of the 16th Lok Sabha, the bill is at an advanced stage of processing for reintroduction after a fresh round of inter-ministerial consultations.