

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6498
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2015
NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION
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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) team of the UN has noted that nuclear power generation in India will increase substantially over the next decade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the recommendations and suggestions made by the IRRS for improvement of the nuclear sector in the country?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) team of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has recently carried out peer review of the regulatory framework of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) with respect to Nuclear Power Plants and Projects in India against the safety standards laid down by IAEA. The mandate of IRRS Mission was not to review the country's nuclear power programme, although, they did note India's Energy Policy and its projection of significant increase of nuclear generation capacity over next decades.

(c) The IRRS Mission looked at the nuclear safety regulatory framework of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for Nuclear Power Plants and Projects. After completing the mission, a draft report was provided by IAEA. In the draft report, it has been concluded that the Indian nuclear regulatory body, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) is an experienced, knowledgeable and dedicated regulatory body for the protection of the public and environment. The IRRS team acknowledged that AERB continues to enhance its regulatory programme to face the current and future challenges in regulating nuclear safety.

The team identified a few areas for improvements in the overall nuclear safety regulatory framework of India in the form of suggestions and recommendations, including the following:

- # Promulgation of the established policies and strategy for safety and the strategies for radioactive waste management as statements of the Government's intent.
- # Embedding in law the regulatory independence of AERB.
- # Review of implementation of the policy and arrangements to ensure maintenance of independence in the performance of regulatory functions.
- # Enhancing the frequency of routine on-site inspections at NPPs to allow for additional independent verification and
- # Development and implementation of AERB's internal emergency arrangements including detailed procedures to fulfil its roles related to emergency response.