

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6596
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2015
PROTEST OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the deep unrest of local population towards establishing nuclear power plants in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons of such unrest and the steps the Government has undertaken to alleviate such fears of the people;
- (c) the nuclear safety measures in place for all nuclear plants in the country and the total funds being allocated for ensuring safety of the nuclear plants;
- (d) whether any foreign Government is being approached to ensure safety measures in the nuclear plants of the country; and
- (e) if so, the extent of their involvement and the name of the country involved in various plants?

Answer

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

- (a) There have been sporadic instances of resistance for setting up nuclear power plants by some sections of local people at some of the new nuclear power plant sites.
- (b) The resistance has been mainly on account of issues related to Rehabilitation package, apprehensions about loss of traditional means of livelihood and safety of the nuclear power plants. A large public outreach programme based on a multipronged approach is implemented to address the apprehensions of the people about safety of nuclear power plants and related issues and allay their fears in a credible manner. The issues related to rehabilitation are being addressed in association with respective state Governments.
- (c) At all nuclear power stations, state of the art safety measures are provided based on principles of redundancy (more numbers than required) and diversity (safety systems operating on different principles).

These include fail safe shutdown system to safely shutdown the reactor, combination of active (requiring external intervention) and passive (systems working on natural phenomena and not needing motive power or operator action), cooling systems to remove the heat from the core at all times and a robust containment to prevent release of radioactivity in all situations. In addition, all nuclear power plants are designed to withstand extreme natural events like earthquake, flooding, tsunami etc.

Safety features are integral to the design of all components and equipment of nuclear power projects and form part of the project expenditure. Similarly, ensuring safety during operation forms the part of operating expenditure and no separate provisions for safety are made.

- (d) No, Sir. Indian expertise in nuclear reactor safety is world-class. However, India is actively participating in international efforts in further enhancing safety of nuclear power reactors. India had also invited the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for peer review of an Indian nuclear power station, Rajasthan Atomic Power Station, Units 3&4 which has resulted in sharing of safety related best practices.

- (e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.