

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4033

ANSWERED ON:23.12.2015

Radiation Impact on Health

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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government undertakes periodical survey through any independent agency to find the impact on health in and around nuclear power plants in the country;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether any negative health impact has been found by the agency due to radiation; and

(d)if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b)Environmental Survey Laboratories (ESLs)of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy established at all Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) carries out periodic survey of radioactivity levels in environment and estimate the dose to members of public residing around NPPs. The doses received are small percentages of the limit prescribed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). As opined by International bodies such as the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), the populations living near NPPs receiving miniscule doses are not likely to be vulnerable to radiation induced diseases.

Epidemiological survey for health assessment in respect of employees working in close proximity of radiation and staying in the nearby residential complex and villages of each of the nuclear power plants in operation have been carried out by reputed local medical colleges and analysis has been carried out by Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai, a premier cancer research centre in the country. In addition, annual medical checkups are carried out for all occupational workers regularly.

(c)&(d) No, sir. The examination/studies, as mentioned above have found that the morbidity pattern of all ailments is lower than the national average. There has also not been any rise in cancer morbidity, birth defects in the new born as compared to national average. All these studies and reports clearly establish that there are no adverse health impacts of the operation of the nuclear power plants on the people living in and around the plants.
