

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5107
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014
ATOMIC ENERGY PROGRAMME
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several countries have expressed their concern over the atomic power plants;
- (b) if so, the details of the apprehensions expressed by them;
- (c) the policy of the Government of India with regard to the atomic energy programme;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any policy to alleviate the dangers of atomic energy outlined/ being outlined by the scientists; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Yes Sir. Concerns about safety of nuclear power plants were expressed in some countries following the Fukushima accident in Japan in March, 2011. Most of the nuclear power countries, however, continued with their original plans for construction or operation of nuclear power plants.

(c) India follows an indigenous sequential three-stage nuclear power programme based on optimum utilisation of the country's nuclear resources. The policy of the Government is to pursue the country's nuclear power programme with full regard to safety, security and livelihood of people as it has potential to ensure long-term energy security in a sustainable manner. Large capacity reactors based on international cooperation are also implemented as additionalities to the indigenous programme.

(d) The safety record of Indian nuclear power plants since their inception has been impeccable, with no incident or accident or release of radioactivity in the public domain beyond stipulated limits. Safety is accorded highest priority in all phases such as siting, design, construction, commissioning and operation of nuclear power plants. A system of multi-tier safety review mechanism for periodic safety reviews at all stages of nuclear power plants and accord of stage-wise authorisation by the regulatory authority is in place. Based on these reviews and in line with global experiences and evolving standards, upgradation of safety, is carried out as an ongoing exercise.

(e) The safety reviews of Indian nuclear power plants in the context of the Fukushima accident were carried out by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). These reviews found that Indian nuclear power plants are safe and can withstand extreme natural events. A peer review of safety of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Units 3 & 4 was conducted by the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Following the review the OSART team appreciated the existence of a strong safety culture.