

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ATOMIC ENERGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3743

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017

Treatment of People affected by Nuclear Disaster

Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai

**Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:**

(a)whether the Department of Atomic Energy has formulated any scheme to ensure best medical treatment for the people, in the event of any large scale nuclear disaster in consultation with concerned State Government, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b)whether the department has held consultations with the State Governments and NDMA in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(c)the time by which the Government is likely to formulate a proper action-plan in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(c) Yes Sir. The scheme viz. 'Preparedness for response to any nuclear accidents leading to off-site emergency at Nuclear Power Plant (NPP)' is existing and emergency exercises are conducted periodically.

Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has been successfully operating all its nuclear facilities for the past six decades, by ensuring radiological safety both to its workforce and every member of public. The probability of occurrence of major accidents at these nuclear facilities leading to environmental releases affecting member of public is extremely small. World-over, the accidents at nuclear facilities is termed as nuclear emergency, while detonation of nuclear warhead is termed as nuclear disaster, an event of large scale impact. Preparation for medical management during any nuclear / radiological threat as a part of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threat is being addressed by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

The defence-in-depth approach of DAE ensures multiple layers of safety, to minimize the probability of any accident and impact of nuclear emergency that may require medical intervention to member of public. Also, DAE has a rugged regulatory mechanism, with documents prepared by district authorities, State Government and NDMA on 'Preparedness towards off-site emergency and response plan' with technical inputs from DAE. Periodic Emergency Exercises are conducted (once in every two years) at all the NPP sites.

Due to all the safety aspects in consideration during site selection, design, operation and preparedness for response plan to any nuclear emergency arising out of DAE's nuclear facility; it is highly unlikely to result in any nuclear emergency eliciting medical intervention to any member of public. However, internationally it is observed that in such emergency situation, psychological / social effect is a major cause of concern among members of public due to lack of awareness. The Hospitals / Health Care Centres of DAE would be available to take care of occupational workers during any inadvertent event at DAE facilities. NDMA is finalising a document on medical management and guidelines for nuclear emergency with technical inputs from DAE and in consultation with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare [MoH&FW (DGHS)].

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