

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 573
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2019

INVESTMENT IN ATOMIC ENERGY

573. SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the domestic investment in production of atomic energy is not sufficient in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether suggestions have been received from various parties to permit foreign direct investment in atomic energy sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether any plan has been formulated to promote domestic and foreign direct investment in atomic energy sector;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the follow-up action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a)&(b) There are presently twenty two (22) reactors with a capacity of 6780 MW in operation in the country. In addition, nine (9) reactors, with a total capacity of 6700 MW are presently under construction. The Government has also accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for twelve (12) more reactors with an aggregate capacity of 9000 MW in June-2017.

The Capital investment for the nuclear power projects is being funded with a debt to equity ratio of 70:30.

The equity part is funded from internal resources of NPCIL and Government Budgetary Support. The Government in the budget speech of year 2016-17 announced Rs. 3,000 crore per year for next fifteen years as Government budgetary support for setting up new nuclear power plants. The debt part is sourced from domestic and external commercial borrowings and supplier's credit.

(c)&(d) There have been suggestions made to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in nuclear power generation sector. However, no decision in this regard has been taken.

(e)(f)&(g)The present policy (Consolidated FDI Policy of Government) puts atomic energy in the list of prohibited sectors. However, there is no restriction on FDI in the nuclear industry for manufacturing of equipment and providing other supplies for nuclear power plants and related other facilities. Government of India has amended the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 in 2015 to enable the licensing of NPCIL's Joint Ventures for setting up nuclear power projects. To boost domestic investment, Joint Ventures have been formed by NPCIL with public sector majors National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO).
