

[3 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE. (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No Sir. All fuel processing and fabrication plants in India have been constructed after a rigorous safety review of its design and are operated in strict accordance with technical specifications approved by the regulatory body.

(b) Regular assessment of the overall safety of nuclear installations is a common practice among nuclear agencies. All countries which operate nuclear installations make periodic assessments of their safety and implement the necessary modifications and improvements to upgrade their safety status to the maximum extent possible. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) report prepared in 1995 is in line with the international practice and is a collation largely based on the reports of safety reviews carried out from time to time by AERB and its various committees. Systematic action plan had been drawn up to resolve each of these issues by the unit concerned, in consultation with AERB.

(c) Effective administrative and technical machinery has always been in place to monitor and enforce safety stipulations in the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) installations to prevent any mishap of any kind in the nuclear installations.

Generation of nuclear power

320. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the target of generating of nuclear power has been lagging;
- (b) if so, the total nuclear power target fixed during the last 3 years and target achieved;
- (c) the reasons for not achieving the fixed target;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to boost generation of nuclear power and to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONER'S WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE. (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(b) The targets fixed *vis-a-vis* the actual generation of nuclear power for the last three years is given below:

Year	Target Fixed (MUs)	Actual Generation (MUs)
1996-97	7,570	9,068
1997-98	8,515	9,618
1998-99	9,795	11,174

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Supply of uranium to nuclear power stations

321. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) how many uranium reactors are functioning in the country;

(b) how much uranium is required annually by them;

(c) how much uranium the Uranium Corporation of India is able to supply them and what is the shortfall;

(d) whether it is because of the shortfall of uranium that the optimum generation of electricity has not been achieved; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to increase the supply of uranium to nuclear power stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONER'S WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE. (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) At present, ten nuclear power reactors are operating in the country.

(b) The present annual uranium requirement of the operating nuclear power plants is around 250 tonnes for eight reactors operating based on Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) technology. Two reactors operating based on Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) technology utilise imported enriched uranium.

(c) UCIL is able to supply the required quantity of natural uranium.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Anti-India Campaign by Terrorists Gathered in Pakistan

†322. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.