

Restriction on putting nuclear power reactors

742. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any restriction imposed on putting up US nuclear power reactors in different parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the basis and criteria; and
- (c) the places where US made nuclear power reactors would be finally put up and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) to (c) Setting up of significant nuclear power capacity through power reactors of 1000 MW or higher capacity in cooperation with foreign countries, including the USA, requires abundant cooling water and sea route for transportation of heavy equipment. Coastal sites, therefore are better suited for such nuclear power parks with eventual capacity of 6000-8000 MW. Two sites, one at Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh and another at Chhayamithi Virdi in Gujarat have been approved in principle for setting up reactors based on co-operation with the USA. Presently discussions on setting up of nuclear power plants are being held with US companies.

Cost of nuclear power technology

743. SHRI A. ELAVARSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has asked US to reduce the nuclear power cost and the cost of nuclear power technology it is offering to India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the cost of the US nuclear power technology is Rs.15-16 crores per MW against Rs.7-8 crore per MW in India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) to (d) During informal discussions with US companies in various fora, need for commercial viability of the projects has been emphasised.

Target of atomic energy

744. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the target of Atomic Energy by the end of this Five Year Plan;
- (b) whether we have been able to achieve the target; and