There are also facilities for Research and Development (R&D) in various aspects of isotope production and their application etc. located at Trombay. Mainly low and intermediate level wastes are produced in these facilities. These are also stored at specially designed near surface underground structures similar to those at nuclear power plants.

Besides low level & intermediate level wastes, the high level radioactive wastes are also produced in the spent fuel reprocessing plant. These are immobilised in vitrious matrix and doubly encapsulated. Solid waste so conditioned is stored in air cooled engineered vault facility located inside the boundaries of the installation at Tarapur. The sites where multiple nuclear activities such as R&D, fuel fabrication and fuel reprocessing, are carried out (at Trombay, Tarapur and Kalpakkam), about 400 - 600 cubic meter of radioactive solid waste is disposed annually.

(d) and (e) Extensive study is performed on a given site before design, construction and commissioning of a waste disposal facility. This study includes ground water movement, soil and water analysis, water table, surface water movement, etc. The radioactive waste disposal system uses a multi barrier concept comprising of waste form/matrix, engineered barrier, backfill material and the natural geo-environment to contain and isolate the radioactivity from the environment. The performance of disposal facility is monitored through a systematic surveillance programme consisting of systematic ground water/soil analysis for radioactivity as well as radiation monitoring of the disposal area. No ill effect has been observed either because of the facility or because of waste disposal at the facility.

(f) No applicable.

Aryan coal washery Dipika

†2575. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1805 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 2007 and state:

(a) whether the Aryan Coal Benefication Private Ltd. which is situated on the land given on lease to Dipika Gevra (Village Beltikri) mine by S.E.C.L. is not a barrel coal washery;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether more than 65 per cent production of ashes (reject) is possible in Aryan coal washery Dipika and whether it has been investigated by the competent authority; and

(c) if not, whether it is proposed to be investigated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Barrel is the main washing equipment in Dipika Washery of Aryan Coal Beneficiation Pvt. Ltd.

(b) and (c) The issue of coal washing is dealt between consumer and the washery operators. S.E.C.L. is the supplier of coal to the consumer and is not consulted or informed on the technical aspects and parameters of washing. As such the matter has not been examined by S.E.C.L.

Allotment of Coal Blocks to MSMC

2576. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has recommended allotment of coal blocks to Maharashtra State Minining Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Ministry of Coal had invited applications for allocation of coal blocks earmarked for power and non-power sectors, through Government Company Dispensation Route. In response, the Maharashtra State Mining Corporation, an undertaking of Government of Maharashtra has also submitted application for allocation of Manoharpur, Chattibariatu South, Dipside of Manoharpur, Chendipada, Chendipada II, Baitarni West, Mandakini B power sector coal blocks and Rabodih, Agarzari, Warora, Bicharpur and Sahapur non-power sector coal blocks.

(c) No decision has been taken as yet.