

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the incident of radiation leakage at a scrap market in Mayapuri Phase-II, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps that are being taken for better treatment of the victims;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the incident; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Government is aware of the incident of discovery of radiation sources in the scrap market in Mayapuri, Delhi. Experts from Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), other units of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have surveyed the area and recovered all the exposed radiation sources. After recovery operations, the area was surveyed again to ensure that elevated radiation levels do not exist. Seven persons who have been affected by radiation were admitted to various hospitals in Delhi and the doctors from these hospitals are in continuous communication with the medical officers of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai. One person died in hospital on 26.04.2010.

(c) and (d) As a first step, the recovered sources were examined at Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS). Preliminary examinations have revealed that the sources have not been fabricated in India. Further investigations are underway to identify the origin of the scrap which contained these sources.

Radiation exposure in Delhi

3687. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people with symptoms of radiation exposure have fallen ill recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether radioactive waste, Cobalt-60 was detected at a shop of scrap dealer in Delhi;

(c) if so, whether the Scientists from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Narora Atomic Power Plant have tried to sanitise the place where radioactive waste was lying; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and responsibility fixed by Government for this negligent attitude?

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

(a) So far a total of seven persons have reported to various hospitals in Delhi with symptoms showing signs of exposure to radiation. One person died in hospital on 26.04.2010.

(b) Radioactive material, Cobalt-60 sources were detected at a few scrap shops in Delhi.

(c) and (d) The scientists from Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have conducted surveys of the metal scrap shops in Mayapuri Industrial area where in the first person, dealer of scrap, was found with suspected radiation exposure symptoms. In this survey a total of 8 sources were detected and safely removed in shielded containers. Subsequently, three more sources were recovered from the same area. Subsequent radiation surveys carried out have confirmed the area to be safe from radiological safety considerations.

The recovered Cobalt-60 sources were sent to Narora Atomic Power Station for examination and to identify their origin. Preliminary examinations indicate that the sources have not been fabricated in India. Further investigations are in progress to identify the origin of scrap which contained the sources.

Capacity utilisation factor of nuclear reactors

3688. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity utilization factor in respect of nuclear reactors which were functioning during 2008 and 2009;

(b) the electricity production profile of our nuclear power plants, plant-wise, during 2008-2009;

(c) whether any consignment of uranium has been received from countries with whom India entered into agreements consequent upon lifting the three -decade-old sanctions on India's nuclear commerce; and

(d) the projections of import of uranium during 2010?

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

(a) The capacity factor of nuclear power reactors in operation during the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 was 50% and 61% respectively.

(b) The details are given in the Statement (*See below*).