

the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in collaboration with Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar, Uranium content of 235 number of water samples, collected from canals and bore wells from four districts (Bhatinda, Mansa, Faridkot and Firozpur) of Punjab during September-October, 2009 was measured. The results of the study reveal that about 50% of total samples have Uranium concentration above the limit prescribed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

(b) Department of Atomic Energy has not carried out any health study in this region.

(c) The source of uranium in ground water in the affected areas could be due to natural geological formations. Isotopic analysis of uranium has established that ground water in the Malwa region contains natural uranium.

(d) Ground water with higher uranium concentration can be made potable by use of techniques such as Reverse Osmosis (RO). BARC has developed requisite technology in this regard, the technology developed by BARC in this regard could be made available for water purification.

India as a member of NSG

†1707. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that America had assured India to help in making it the member of Nuclear Suppliers Group during discussion held when American President Barack Obama visited India recently;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government has prepared any concrete proposal with the consent of America to implement this view; and

(d) if so, the details of that proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR):

(a) and (b) Yes, during the recent visit of the US President to India, it was announced that US intends to support India's full membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and that US will consult with members of the regime to encourage the evolution of regime membership criteria to reflect India's prospective membership of the regime.

(c) and (d) The India-US understanding on NSG membership will be implemented in consultation between the two Governments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.