

A major part of the expenditure was incurred for design and development of Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR), which will serve as a technology demonstrator for a range of technologies for Thorium utilization as well as for several advanced safety features that have been incorporated in the design of this reactor. The total amount spent on this activity is Rs.230 cr.

Safety of nuclear plants

1251. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the Nuclear Plants in the country are ill-equipped in so far as safety and security aspects are concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the recommendations made by the task forces set up by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) have been accepted; and

(d) if so, the roadmap of implementing the recommendations of the task forces set up by NPCIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Safety is accorded highest priority in all phases, siting, design, construction, commissioning, operation and de-commissioning of nuclear power plants in the country. The Indian nuclear power reactors employ state of the art systems at par international standards. Indian nuclear power plants have demonstrated over 340 reactor-years of safe operation and there has been no instance of release of radioactivity in the public domain or breach of security. Further, safety being a moving target which is continually evolving, regular reviews of incidents at national and international levels and incorporation of lessons learnt from these, as appropriate, are inbuilt in safety culture at Indian nuclear power plants. Periodic reviews on safety status at Indian nuclear power plants are carried out independently by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The recommendations arising out of these reviews are also implemented scrupulously.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of NPCIL taskforces are already under implementation and others are in process of clearance/approval of AERB. The road map for implementation of the recommendations has been placed in the public domain on the websites of NPCIL and DAE.

Dilution of Civil Nuclear Liability Act

1252. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had demanded dilution of the Civil Nuclear Liability Act asking India to engage with the International Atomic Energy Agency