

Environmental Survey Laboratory cum health Physics Unit — an independent body under the administrative control of BARC is in operation since inception of the mines and related facilities to carry out environmental and radmological surveillance in and around UCIL's units. The reports of the survey are reviewed by AERB through its various constituents. UCIL provides comprehensive health care to all persons employed in mine and their families.

**Preparedness of atomic plants to withstand**

1863. DR. K.V.P RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian atomic plants can withstand any disasters, both manmade and natural, particularly in the light of the recent disaster that took place in Japan;
- (b) if so, the preparedness of the plants in India; and
- (c) further steps that are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The nuclear power plants are sited, designed, constructed and operated to be safe in the event of any natural and man induced events. In the light of the recent incidents at Fukushima in Japan. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) constituted four task forces for different technologies in operation These task forces have revisited the safety of all the nuclear power plants and found that Indian nuclear power reactors are safe and have sufficient margins and features in the design to withstand extreme natural events. The reports of the task forces have been submitted and made public. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) have also constituted committees whose reports are expected in the near future.

(c) To further enhance the safety of the nuclear power plants, recommendations have been made by the task forces which are being implemented after due process of approval. The salient recommendations made by the task forces are:

- Automatic reactor shutdown initiation sensing seismic activity.
- Augmentation of cooling water inventories and provisions for additional hook up arrangements through external sources and provision of mobile diesel driven pump sets.

- Increasing the duration of the passive power sources/battery operated devices for monitoring important parameters for a longer duration.
- Additional shore protections measures at Tarapur Atomic Power Station and Madras Atomic Power Station
- Revision of Emergency-Operating Procedures (EOPS) and structured training programs to train plant personnel on modified EOPs.
- Inerting (filling up of the containment with nitrogen) of the TAPS-1 & 2 containment.

#### **Uranium Reserves in Andhra Pradesh**

†1864. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that uranium reserves of India have now doubled as compared to earlier one, as a result of finding the new reserves of uranium in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether the cost of production from these new mines has also been estimated and;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the assessment regarding dependence on fuel to be imported from foreign countries to meet the demand of uranium in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) and (b) Uranium reserves in India has enhanced substantially over the years which stands at 1,72,762 tonnes of Uranium ( $U_3O_8$ ) as on 30.06.2011. Major part of these uranium resources are from the State of Andhra Pradesh which is 83,538 tonnes of Uranium ( $U_3O_8$ ). Based on the establishment of uranium resources, the Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has taken up construction of uranium mines and mineral processing plant in Andhra Pradesh (Tumalapalle Project).

(c) Yes, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.