

Achievement of Objectives of Atomic Energy

1091. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the development and status to achieve the objective of Atomic Energy Act, 2008 so far;
- (b) the main features of this Atomic Energy Act, 2008; and
- (c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :
(a) to (c) There is no Act called 'Atomic Energy Act, 2008' enacted by the Government. However, the Atomic Energy Act, originally enacted in 1948, was repealed in 1962 when the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 was enacted. Minor amendments to the Act were made in 1986 and 1987. The Department of Atomic Energy reviewed the need for amending the provisions of the Act, and action taken thereon from time to time since the beginning of the 1990's. The Department of Atomic Energy is now in the process of finalizing draft amendments to be made to the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, Atomic Energy Act, 1962 essentially provides the legal framework for development, control and use of atomic energy for the welfare of people of India and for other peaceful purposes and for matters connected therewith. The benefits availed under Atomic Energy Act, 1962 so far are as follows:

1. Indigenous development of nuclear power technology and nuclear fuel cycle technology.
2. Large scale application of radioisotopes in
 - a. Healthcare *i.e.* diagnosis, therapy and sterilization.
 - b. Nuclear agriculture: Use of radioisotopes for mutation of seeds (largely oil seeds and pulses) for improvement in yield, resistance against pest and shortening of maturity period, etc.
 - c. Application of radioisotope for food preservation.
 - d. Industrial applications : non-destructive testing using gamma rays, gamma scanning of petro-chemical towers, logging of oil wells, radiation processing of polymers, industrial gauging, etc.
3. Capacity building for strategic activities.