

(a) whether India has purchased two V.V.E.R. (Vodo Vodyanoi Energetichesky Reactors) of one thousand megawatt each for installing them in Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the time when these reactors were purchased and their price; and

(c) whether the technology used in the reactors is in accordance with the security norms of the western countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Two VVERs each of 1000 MW capacity, are being set up at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu in technical cooperation with Russian Federation.

(b) While the design and supply of major equipment are in the Russian scope, construction, commissioning and some of the supplies are in Indian scope. The final agreement in this regard was signed on July 24, 2001.

(c) Any reactors to be set up in the country with foreign technical cooperation should meet the safety norms prescribed by the regulatory authorities in the country of origin and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) in India. The VVERs meet both the Russian and Indian regulatory requirements on safety. VVERs being set up at Kudankulam also meet IAEA safety requirements.

Lifting ban of uranium sale to India by Australian Government

2483. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Australian Government has lifted its ban on selling uranium to India for use in nuclear power plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government could ensure the consistent supply of uranium from Australia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) According to reports in media, the leadership in Australia has made statements to reverse the ban on export of uranium from Australia to India. However, no formal communication has been received from Australia, so far. There are press reports that Australia is considering supply of Uranium to India. It is not possible, as yet, to provide the time by which Uranium for our reactors will be available from Australia.

Government's assessment of Kudankulam nuclear plant

2484. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: