

(e) Studies are carried out to ascertain the effect of uranium in ground water on agricultural crops and consequent health effect.

Commissioning of Kudankulam Nuclear Plant

935. SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN :
SHRI D. RAJA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Kudankulam nuclear plant in Tamil Nadu could not be commissioned as scheduled in December 2011 due to agitation by the local people on safety grounds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures being taken to allay their apprehension fully before it is commissioned?

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

(b) Following the protests at the site, requisite number of employees of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) & its contractors have not been able to enter the project site. Work has been halted since October 2011.

(c) The Government set up an expert group comprising 15 members having expertise in diverse fields relevant to nuclear and radiation safety, seismology, health, ecology, oceanography, fisheries etc. to interact with the spokespersons of the people of the region to address all their legitimate concerns. The group has met the state government officials and local spokespersons nominated by the government of Tamil Nadu and conclusively addressed all the legitimate and genuine apprehensions of the people. DAE/NPCIL has also embarked upon a focused outreach programme in areas around Kudankulam nuclear power project using a multi-pronged approach to allay the apprehensions of the people protesting against the startup of the project. The efforts in this regard are continuing and will be further enhanced.

Research Project in Gujarat

936. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :
SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the research projects implemented or in process by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) within last three years in Gujarat State;
- (b) the amount of funds that has been allocated in this regard; and

(c) whether BARC extends research collaborative in field of Agriculture with Navsari Agriculture University for joint research for mangoes by using atomic methods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) Research & Development activities pertaining to the activities of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) are being pursued in various universities / academic institutions in different states of the country by sponsoring R&D projects through the Board of Research in Nuclear Science (BRNS). As a part of this programme since 2005, 37 R&D projects were sponsored in the Gujarat State. Out of these, 17 projects were sponsored during the last three years. Besides R&D projects, BRNS also provides grant for conducting national/international seminars conferences across the country. In Gujarat state, in the last three years, about 14 conferences were provided grant by BRNS;

In addition to above, studies on radiation based induced mutagenesis for crop improvements along with conventional breeding have been underway at BARC, Mumbai since several decades. Using both mutation and recombination breeding in groundnut, BARC has developed 14 groundnut varieties and are released and notified for commercial cultivation across the country. As a part of this, five varieties namely TAG 24, Somnath, TG 26, TG 37A and TPG 41 were released for Gujarat through active collaboration with Directorate of Groundnut Research (DGR), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Junagadh and Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh. Besides, recently released varieties like TG 38, TLG 45 and TG 51 (released elsewhere) are also popular among Gujarat farmers. These activities were continued in Gujarat State during the past three years.

New groundnut breeding lines of BARC having disease resistance are evaluated by Agricultural Research Station, Talod, Gujarat. Recently, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari has undertaken evaluation of advanced breeding lines of groundnut at four regional research stations. BARC is actively collaborating with Agricultural Universities at Junagadh and Anand for some of these activities.

(b) For the BRNS sponsored R&D projects in Gujarat State, an amount of Rs. 89.30 lakh was allocated during 2009, 2010 & 2011 and Rs. 12.65 lakh towards conducting national/international conferences during 2010, 2011 & 2012.

(c) BARC would extend research collaboration in the field of agriculture with Navsari Agriculture University, if a specific proposal which is scientifically worth pursuing, is received.

Protest against Kudankulam Nuclear Plant

937. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK :
SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister's charge that civil society groups