

(b) if so, the details of the training programmes that have been conducted till date from 2004 onwards, year-wise and plant-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has a structured training programme for training the plant personnel on various plant procedures including Emergency Operating Procedures (EOP) for handling off-normal conditions. The emergency procedures include contingencies arising out of floods, tsunamis, cyclonic storms, earthquakes and fire.

(b) The relevant training programmes on EOPs for off-normal conditions are regularly conducted in batches to the plant personnel at all the nuclear power plants. Retraining on these topics is also imparted regularly to the operation personnel as a part of the licensing process. On an average, at every site five training programmes in this regard have been conducted every year since 2004.

(c) Does not arise.

Steps to Allay Fears of Nuclear Plants

932. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether strong protests at proposed nuclear power plants in Kudankulam and Jaitapur, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) has begun a concerted nation-wide campaign to allay public fears about radiation and its linkage with health hazards such as cancer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this marks a change of stance by the company as it seeks to restart the work at its plants and Government pushes to continue the opening up India's nuclear power industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has scaled up its public outreach activities in a structured manner by adopting a multipronged approach to allay the apprehensions of the people living around Kudankulam, Jaitapur and other nuclear power plant sites in the country regarding safety of nuclear power, radiation and health etc. Towards this, interactive sessions with press, students, villagers have been held and correct information is being disseminated through TV channels, radio, newspapers, pamphlets etc.

(c) While pursuing nuclear power programme the government has always attached highest importance to safety, security & livelihood of people of the neighbourhood. India's energy needs are very large. Nuclear energy will play a major

part in future for achieving energy security of the country. India's nuclear policy has not undergone any change.

- (d) Does not arise.

Study of Safety Issues of Kudankulam Power Plant

933. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the high level experts panel set up by Government to study the entire gamut of safety issues related to the Kudankulam Nuclear Plant Project have rejected the possibility that radiation from functioning nuclear power plants across the country would increase cancer and birth deformity cases;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar studies have been undertaken in respect of other nuclear plants in the country on the same issue; and

- (d) if so, the results of such studies?

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

(b) The group of experts from diverse fields, namely academicians, scientists, engineers, radiation experts and doctors etc. constituted by the Central Government to study entire gamut of safety issues related to Kudankulam submitted its report in December 2011. It has concluded that incidence of cancers and birth defects is not increased due to radiation from operating nuclear power plants. It has also been conveyed that the people living around Kudankulam nuclear power plant need not be apprehensive as the operation of the plant would not give rise to any deleterious health effects.

- (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The studies have found that there has not been any rise in cancer morbidity, birth defects or other ailments and there is no significant change in radiation level in the environment compared to the base line data collected before operation of nuclear power plant.

Uranium in Ground Water in Punjab

934. SHRI H. K. DUA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre's (BARC) report confirming traces of uranium in ground water in several districts of southern Punjab;