

(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