

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;