

representation to work in Assam by using atomic energy in agriculture seed and agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details of the time period when this work would be completed; and

(c) the details of the research work being done in this direction in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has not received any representation to work in Assam for using atomic energy in agriculture seed and agriculture sector. However, BARC will be willing to offer its help to Assam in these areas.

(c) BARC has not initiated any research work in Assam, in this regard.

Nuclear Power Plant at Mithivirdi

2331. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR :

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government intends to start nuclear power plant at Mithivirdi of Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the action that has been taken by Government for rehabilitation of affected people and against agitation of local people;

(c) whether Government has taken up this matter with the State Government of Gujarat in this regard; and

(d) the action that has been taken to ensure best safety measures for this proposed and existing nuclear power stations in Gujarat State?

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

(b) and (c) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is closely working with the State government for acquisition of land and arriving at a comprehensive rehabilitation package in line with the Central and State laws and policies. Public outreach activities to allay the apprehensions about the project and nuclear power have been scaled up manifold through structured public awareness campaigns among the villagers, state officials, college & school students, policy makers, planners including other stake holders.

(d) The nuclear power plants planned to be set up at Chhaya Mithi Viridi in Gujarat in technical cooperation with a foreign vendor are Generation III+ reactors with advanced safety features. The safety of these reactors will be comprehensively

reviewed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and only after clearance they will be set up. Safety reviews of the existing nuclear power plants in operation and under construction at Kakrapar in Gujarat by NPCIL and AERB post Fukushima accident have found that these are safe with margins and features in design to withstand extreme natural events. Recommendations were made by these reviews to take the safety to a higher level. The major recommendations like provision of seismic switches for an automatic shutdown of reactors upon sensing of earthquake are already in place at Kakrapar reactors. In respect of remaining recommendations, the design and engineering have been completed and regulatory clearances obtained for implementation during biennial shutdown of the units.

Purchase of E-Tickets from Air India Website under LTC 80 Scheme

2332. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA :

SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government employees, entitled to travel by air, can directly purchase e-tickets from the Air India website under the LTC 80 scheme;
- (b) if so, whether Air India has set any different parameters in their website for issue of e-tickets under the LTC 80 scheme and whether these tickets indicate that the fair charged is as per LTC 80 scheme; and
- (c) if not, whether Government is contemplating to instruct the National Carrier to make such provision since at present there is a lot of confusion in the fair structure offered by them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Currently there is no provision for booking LTC tickets through the Air India website.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Air India is in the process of upgrading its web-site and booking of concessional fare types, including LTC-80, will be possible on upgradation.

Losses of Airlines in India

2333. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that several airline companies operating in India have incurred huge losses and are on the verge of closure;
- (b) if so, details of the airlines that are making losses, and reasons for the same; and