

**Leakage at Rawatbhata Atomic Power station**

1245. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that yet another leak has been reported within a month at the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) at Rawatbhata near Kota;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Rawatbhata site is getting ready for India's second biggest Nuclear Fuel Complex with a capacity of 500 tonnes a year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it is also a fact that the affected workers were taken off duty immediately and put under care; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) There were two instances of tritium uptake (exposure) of workers at Rajasthan Atomic Power Station at Rawatbhata during maintenance works. While the first instance occurred in Unit-5 on June 23, 2012, the second instance took place in Unit-4 on July 19, 2012. Both the instances were localised to small areas and there was absolutely no release of radioactivity/radiation to the environment or public domain. The first instance in Unit-5 occurred due to inadvertent rise in tritium levels in a localised area of the containment building due to the opening of the moderator cover gas line where the welding jobs were performed. In the second instance, a localised leak of tritiated heavy water from the moderator pump seal led to tritium uptake by workers working in the area.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A new facility is being set up by Nuclear Fuel Complex at Kota, Rajasthan to manufacture fuel assemblies required for 4 Units of 700 MWe PHWRs, two each at Kakrapar (Gujarat) and Kota (Rajasthan).

(e) and (f) No, Sir. In the first instance only one contract worker received a dose of 20.4 milli-Sievert per year, as against the stipulated AERB annual dose limit of 15 milli-Sievert per year for contract workers. However, at this level of radiation

dose, there are no adverse effects on the health and the worker is attending his duties, albeit in other areas of the plant.

The radiation exposure of the regular workers in the second instance was found to range from 2.97 to 7.96 milli-Sievert per year which is well below the stipulated Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) annual dose limit of 20 milli-Sievert per year for regular workers. The workers are continuing to perform their normal duties in RAPS-4.

#### **New uranium mines in the country**

1246. DR. V. MAITREYAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to acquire uranium mines in other countries with a view to ensure continuous supply of uranium to nuclear reactors in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether efforts are being made by Government to explore new uranium mines in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to form a Joint Venture Company between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), two Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy to explore the possibility of acquiring uranium assets abroad has been recommended by the Atomic Energy Commission.

(c) and (d) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), is engaged in activities for establishing uranium resources in the country required for the Nuclear Power Programme, through multi-disciplinary survey and exploration, which include heliborne geophysical surveys also.

Important areas which are currently under survey and exploration include Tummalapalle-Rachakuntapalle in Cuddapah District; Koppunuru in Guntur District and Chitrial in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh; Rohil, in Sikar District of