

Section 46 of the CLND Act states that the provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force.

(f) Government wishes to reiterate that it attaches utmost importance to the safety of the people and reassure that a robust regulatory system is in place for ensuring the safety and periodic safety upgrades of our nuclear power plants. There has been a strong tradition of robust safety reviews right from the early days of our nuclear power programme and the safety record of nuclear power plants has been excellent as signified by the absence of any accidents involving radiological consequences in public domain. Immediately after the Fukushima incident, Hon'ble Prime Minister had underscored that safety of our nuclear plants was a matter of the highest priority and ordered safety audits of all Indian nuclear power plants. Specific task forces were constituted to review safety of various reactor designs by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India. Committees of specialists to review and recommend safety upgrades were constituted by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. India has submitted a detailed National Report on actions taken subsequent to the Fukushima nuclear accident to the Second Extraordinary meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) held in August 2012 in Vienna, which was peer reviewed by the Contracting Parties of the CNS.

#### **Regulatory inspections not done by AERB**

\*288. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has not conducted 85 per cent of regulatory inspections for both industrial radiography and radiotherapy units;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the details of the measures taken by Government to ensure that timely inspections are conducted by AERB; and

(d) whether it is fact that AERB failed to enforce safety provisions and compliance with its own stipulations in the case of unit in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) to (c) The facilities and activities coming within the regulatory control of AERB range from large Nuclear Power Plants to small medical x-ray units. AERB has been following a graded approach in regulatory control of these facilities and activities, which is primarily based on the safety significance and technological complexity.

In the case of radiation applications in the public domain for medical and R&D, there have been limitations posed by the large number of units spread across the length and breadth of the country and the accelerated growth in the number of such facilities. Owing to their large number and varied degree of radiological hazard potential. AERB has been following a graded approach with respect to their regulatory control.

The basis for conducting regulatory inspections by AERB is as follows :

- Radiological risk associated with each category of Licencee.
- Reported incidents during the year.
- Issues related to individual Licencees.
- Recommendations arising from Inspections.

The basis for inspection by AERB is in line with international practices.

Regulatory Inspection is only one of the tools for checking compliance. The mechanism for monitoring of radiation facilities also include a system of safety status reports, which the facilities are required to furnish periodically, and their review in AERB. Inspections are carried out on a sample basis, for verifying that the ground realities are in line with the status reports and the license conditions.

With the recent augmentation in its manpower, AERB is enhancing the inspection coverage of the radiation facilities, in accordance with the frequency of inspections suggested in the draft manual.

For ensuring safety in use of diagnostic X-ray facilities, AERB follows an approach involving control during manufacture/sale of the equipment and random Inspections of facilities. Initiatives have been taken with regard to X-ray facilities, for formation of State-level Directorates of Radiation Safety (DRS), accreditation of Quality Assurance providers, etc.

Additional initiatives taken up by AERB recently, with regard to facilitating regulation of X-ray facilities are; (a) rationalization and simplification of the existing regulations for users in diagnostic X-ray practice, by way of amendments of AERB Safety Code; (b) enhancing regulatory control on Manufacturer/supplier, over the user, (c) development of an easy and approachable interface for the user to facilitate easy registration, using the new web based system and (d) public awareness programmes.

(d) Deficiencies with respect to some of the X-ray units, reported by the Directorate of Radiation Safety (DRS) Kerala were operational discrepancies that could

readily be rectified. The violations observed were practice-specific, such as TLD badge not been issued and not related to built in safety, which enabled the institution to rectify the deficiencies in the defined period.

#### **Talks with Chinese Premier**

†\*289. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister went to participate in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and met the Chinese Premier there; and

(b) if so, the initiative taken by Government to start dialogue on bilateral trade relations with China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) :

(a) Yes, Sir. PM had a bilateral meeting with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on the sidelines of the 7th East Asia Summit at Phnom Penh on November 19, 2012.

(b) The two leaders, *inter-alia*, discussed ways to enhance bilateral economic cooperation and welcomed the fact that the 2nd India - China Strategic Economic Dialogue was to be held at New Delhi on 26 November, 2012. PM emphasized the need for greater market access in China for Indian exports of services, pharmaceutical products and software.

#### **Diversion of funds meant for tribals in Andhra Pradesh**

\*290. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that there is diversion of funds meant for tribals to other areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed before the Planning Commission about the diversion;

(c) if so, the amount of money that has been diverted during the last ten years, year-wise; and

(d) the action the Ministry is going to take against Andhra Pradesh Government for diversion of funds meant for tribals?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.