

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Powers of the Atomic Regulatory Board**

1. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is planning to give more powers to the India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has introduced the Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority (NSRA) Bill, 2011 in the Lok Sabha on 7 September, 2011. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has functional independence and reports to the Atomic Energy Commission. By enacting the NSRA Act, the functional independence of AERB will be converted into de jure independence thereby addressing any public apprehensions about regulation of nuclear and radiation safety in India.

- (c) Does not arise.

Civil liability under Nuclear Damages Act, 2010

2. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the 3rd and 4th units of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant will be covered under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act, 2010;
- (b) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard;
- (c) whether any specific liability mechanism is framed by the Ministry for the damages of 1st and 2nd units; and
- (d) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Nuclear regulatory process

3. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether nuclear regulatory process in the country has come under severe criticism from the Government auditor and activities in the recent past;