

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of loading of uranium fuel rods at the 1000 MW capacity unit of the Kudankulam Nuclear Plant by October, 2012, the unit did not produce a single unit of electricity so far;

(b) if so, whether it is due to faulty design or bad quality of the equipment supplied; and

(c) if so, the corrective actions that have been initiated by Government to make the unit function and to punish those who are guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) After loading of the fuel, a series of activities including integrated system tests, first criticality (start of fission chain reaction for the first time), subsequent performance tests etc. in line with stage-wise clearances by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board are needed to be carried out before synchronisation of the unit with the grid and start of generation. These activities are in progress.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Steps to allay the fear for Kalpakkam project

1862. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to allay the fear in the minds of the people of coastal area regarding the Kalpakkam project; and

(b) the steps taken by Ministry to implement the project immediately as the plant being the other alternative for power shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The ongoing outreach activities around Kalpakkam site have been scaled up to allay apprehensions of the people living in the vicinity. The outreach campaigns are organised through structured programmes in simple and local language. These includes organising visits to the site, awareness lectures and presentations in schools/colleges, briefings to press periodically and press meets on radiation and cancer, briefing to people's representatives and the State officials. The awareness material in simple and local language is also distributed to all the sections of the society around the site.

(b) The 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam is progressing as per the revised schedule, which envisages commissioning by March, 2015.