

in Vishakhapatnam and Vijayawada-Guntur-Tenali Metropolitan Urban Development Authority within period of one year from the appointed day and take an expeditious decision thereon.

(b) The proposal for Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Metro rail project in Vishakhapatnam has been examined by the Ministry of Urban Development and accordingly, **'In-Principle' approval has been given on 6th March 2014.** The proposal for preparation of DPR for Vijayawada-Guntur-Tenali Metropolitan Urban Development Authority (VGTMUDA) Region, has also been examined by the Ministry and **'In-Principle' approval for feasibility study and preparation of DPR has been given on 18.7.2014.**

(c) The State Government has to moot the proposal for part funding of feasibility study and preparation of DPR. Thereafter, the Ministry examines the proposal and if found feasible, convey its 'In-principle' approval for the same under the Urban Transport Planning and Capacity Building Scheme. **This process has been completed for Vishakhapatnam and Vijayawada - Guntur-Tenali Metropolitan Area.** Therefore, **the State Government has to now select the consultant through competitive bidding process for preparing Feasibility-cum-DPR for the Metro Rail at Vishakhapatnam and Vijayawada-Guntur-Tenali Metropolitan Area.** No information has been received in this Ministry regarding selection of the consultant.

Slum free India

*337. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved in housing for slum dwellers between 2009-2014 against the announcement of the then Government to create a slum free India in five years;

(b) the reasons for low achievement; and

(c) the steps proposed or taken for achieving the objective or any revised target?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) A total of 1515 projects with a total project cost of ₹ 37,479.94 crores and Central Share of ₹ 20,174.58 crores have been approved for construction/up gradation of total 14,42,187 dwelling units (DUs) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), out of which 826263 have been completed. A total of 166 projects with a total project cost of ₹ 6472.06 crores involving Central Share of ₹ 3531.18 crores have been approved for construction of total 1,20,912 dwelling units (DUs) under Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY), out of which 1154 have been completed.

Under Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), a total of 18 projects for construction of 20,472 DUs have been sanctioned, out of which 3466 have been completed.

(b) Implementation phase of RAY was approved in September, 2013. Under JNNURM, important reasons for low achievements are cost escalations, difficulties in making slum residents temporarily relocate in the case of *in situ* projects and lack of availability of encumbrance free land.

(c) Government has set the target for providing pucca houses to all by 2022 as announced in the President's address to Joint Session of both the Houses of Parliament on 9th June 2014. Government, at present, is holding consultation with various stakeholders for this purpose.

Safety of nuclear plants

*338. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken to ensure the safety of nuclear power plants in the country, plant-wise, Kudankulam plant in particular in view of minor snag found recently;

(b) the details of the mechanism put in place to monitor the safety parameters of all nuclear plants in the country, especially in the event of terrorist attack, natural calamity like earthquake, tsunami, etc.; and

(c) the details of shore protection measures undertaken for the safety of atomic power stations located on the sea coast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) At all nuclear power stations, state of the art safety measures are provided based on principles of redundancy (more numbers than required) and diversity (safety systems operating on different principles). These include fail safe shutdown system to safely shutdown the reactor, combination of active (requiring external intervention) and passive (systems working on natural phenomena and not needing motive power or operator action), cooling systems to remove the heat from the core at all times and a robust containment to prevent release of radioactivity in all situations. In addition, all nuclear power plants are designed to withstand extreme natural events like earthquake, flooding, tsunami etc.

Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Unit-1 has satisfactorily demonstrated operation at various power levels and achieved full power operation on June 7, 2014 safely. The Unit-2 is under commissioning.

(b) A multi-tier safety mechanism comprising safety review committees within