

Deficiencies found in Kudankulam

2405. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has pointed out certain deficiencies in the Valve component of Kudankulam Atomic Power Plant, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by Government to reinforce safety measures with a close scrutiny of all the components of the plants and to take corrective action in the plant; and

(c) the punitive action taken by Government against the Russian company for supplying substandard equipment and parts for the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The process of commissioning of a nuclear power plant or any other operating facility has the objective of determining the performance of various components and systems after integration of the facility section by section. Any deviations noted have to be thereafter corrected and repeat tests are to be conducted till the performance is found to match the stipulated requirements. Accordingly, the commissioning of a nuclear power plant includes performance testing of thousands of valves and other components, as well as of the integrated system. The commissioning process is an iterative one in which deficiencies observed are rectified and retesting is done till satisfactory results are obtained. During commissioning of Kudankulam-Nuclear Power Plant Unit-1, a few of the valves had been found deficient in initial testing, for which corrective actions, including replacement of their internals, where required, were done to achieve acceptable performance.

(b) and (c) There is a well established quality assurance programme laid down for various stages of fabrication/ manufacturing of components. All components installed in Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant have been manufactured in line with prescribed quality requirements and stage-wise verification. Subsequent to installation, these have been tested on individual basis as well as verified meeting of the performance requirement in accordance with the prescribed quality standards during integrated system commissioning. As a part of the corrective actions, the performance of these valves has been brought to an acceptable level by improvement in the components.

Potential of nuclear power during energy shortage

2406. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nuclear power has the potential to resolve India's energy shortage;