

powers conferred by the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to carry out the regulatory and safety functions under sections 16, 17 and 23 of the Act. AERB also has the powers of the Competent Authority for the safety related rules issued under the Act, namely the Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004, the Atomic Energy (Safe Disposal of Radioactive Wastes) Rules, 1987 and the Atomic Energy (Factories) Rules, 1996. AERB has been effectively fulfilling its mandate of safety review and regulation concerning nuclear and radiation safety with various nuclear facilities in India. This is evident from the very good safety performance of the nuclear facilities which is on par with the international benchmarks. Further to bolster the nuclear safety, reviews of the Indian nuclear power plants are carried out periodically by the AERB. In addition, international peer reviews are also carried out by experts of the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO). Post Fukushima, Government invited Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) of IAEA to get the safety of RAPS Units 3 and 4 reviewed. Thus AERB has evolved a robust mechanism to ensure complete nuclear safety.

(b) Government is aware of some misleading media reports in this regard. Sites for locating nuclear power plants are selected after detailed scientific evaluation of the prospective sites in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) Code of Practice on Safety in nuclear power plant siting. Similarly, the safety of the nuclear power reactors to be set up in the country is extensively reviewed at every stage by the AERB and only after its stage-wise clearance, the reactors are set up. In respect of reactors to be set up with foreign cooperation, these have to be certified by both the regulatory authority of the vendor country and AERB in India.

(c) Nuclear power plants are being constructed and proposed to be constructed with technology and equipment commercially obtained from our partner countries such as Russia, France and the U.S. With Russian collaboration, Unit-1 (of 1000 MW) of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project has already commenced commercial operation *w.e.f.* 31.12.2014, while Unit-2 (also of 1000 MW) is slated to be completed by the end of 2015. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. is engaged in negotiations to finalise the techno-commercial offers with nuclear power plant suppliers in the U.S. (Westinghouse and GE-Hitachi) and France (AREVA) for setting up of nuclear power plants in Gujarat (Chhaya Mithivirdi), Andhra Pradesh (Kovvada) and Maharashtra (Jaitapur) respectively.

#### **Contribution to nuclear insurance pool**

758. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the plan within the Ministry to increase Government's contribution to

nuclear insurance pool, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of 'private sector's contribution to the said pool; and

(c) whether any contract has been signed with other nations to set up nuclear plant in our country in past six months and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in coordination with Department of Financial Services (DFS) had initiated discussions with M/s General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) about developing an appropriate product of providing insurance to cover the liability as prescribed under the CLND Act, 2010. M/s GIC Re had informed in this regard that of the amount of ₹ 1,500 crore of "insurance capacity" required for the proposed "Nuclear Insurance Pool", they would be in a position to provide only ₹ 750 crore equivalent of insurance capacity, due to mandated international norms of the insurance industry. M/s GIC Re had requested to obtain a Government guarantee for the remaining amount of ₹ 750 crore to operationalise the nuclear insurance pool. The matter has been taken up by the Department of Financial Services with the Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance for arranging Government guarantee of ₹ 750 crore to M/s GIC Re to develop the "Nuclear Insurance Product".

(c) In the last six months the following agreements have been entered into in connection with setting up of nuclear power plants in the country with foreign cooperation:

- Supplement to the General Framework Agreement (GFA) for Units 3 and 4 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Atom Stroy Export (ASE) of Russian Federation in December 2014, to operationalise the General Framework Agreement (GFA) and Technical Commercial offer (TCO) signed in April 2014
- Contract between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Atom Stroy Export (ASE) of Russian Federation for unit 3 and 4 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in December 2014, to mark the commencing of the implementation of the Units 3 and 4 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant with supply of some major equipment by Atom Stroy Export.
- Pre-engineering agreement between NPCIL and Areva, France in April 2015 to bring clarity on technical aspects of the plant.