

Time-frame for completion of nuclear projects

759. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the plan to constitute and assign a Board Status for the Fast Reactor Fuel Cycle Facility and Demonstration Fuel Reprocessing Plant, IGCAR, Kalpakkam to decentralize and expedite the project;

(b) the other major projects and the funds earmarked, allocated and disbursed for such ongoing projects in the MAPS Kalpakkam, Chennai;

(c) whether Government is taking steps and confident to complete and commission these projects well within the scheduled time-frame; and

(d) if so, the details of the current status and the approximate time by which the projects would be commissioned and produce Nuclear Energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) There is no proposal to assign a Board Status for the Fast Reactor Fuel Cycle Facility and Demonstration Fuel Reprocessing Plant, IGCAR

(b) Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI), a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is presently constructing a Prototype Fast - Breeder Reactor (PFBR) of 500 MWe capacity at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. The funds earmarked, allocated and disbursed for PFBR is as follows:

The approved capital cost of PFBR is ₹ 5677 crore. (80% by way of equity from DAE, and balance by way of debt). The entire equity amount of ₹ 4541.60 crore has been received and spent. DAE has disbursed Government loan of ₹ 300 crore so far.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The PFBR project is under advanced stage of commissioning. The physical progress achieved as on 31.03.2015 is 97.64%. PFBR is currently scheduled to generate 30% of power by September, 2015 and commercial operation by September, 2016.

Norms for nuclear accidents victims

760. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government guarantees that under the civil nuclear deal tweaked during President Obama's visit to India, the victims of a nuclear reactor accident would not meet the same fate as of Union Carbide victims; and

(b) whether there is any provision for speedy and fair compensation payments

in a time bound manner under the agreement and that the matter would not be dragged on for years, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) There is no change proposed in the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 consequent upon discussions with the United States on the issue of civil nuclear liability.

(b) The objective of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 (CLND Act) is to ensure prompt compensation for the victims in the unlikely event of a nuclear incident. Persons who suffer nuclear damage/incident will be entitled to receive compensation. The Act provides for speedy payment of compensation for any nuclear damage/incident by providing for the maximum amount of liability, in respect of each nuclear incident, of rupee equivalent of three hundred million Special Drawing Rights (SDR) or such higher amount as the Central Government may specify by notification, and for prompt adjudication by Claims Commissioners, to be appointed under the Act, of claims for compensation by victims. The Act requires that the Claims Commissioner shall dispose of the application within a period of three months from the date of such receipt of claims and make an award accordingly.

Funds for Development of North Eastern Region

†761. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North East Council (NEC) was constituted for the socio-economic and balanced development of the North Eastern States in 1972 and its main objective was to provide money for the fundamental development of these States;

(b) if so, the amount of money given to the North Eastern States in the last five years and the expenditure thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry is considering to implement the recommendations contained in report of Bezbaruah Committee if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) North Eastern Council was set up in 1972 under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971 as an advisory body. The North Eastern Council (Amendment) Act, 2002 modified its role as to function as a regional planning body for the North Eastern areas. It further specified that while formulating the regional plans for the North Eastern area, the Council shall give

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.