

towns with population of one lakh and above. Rajasthan is also covered under the Scheme. NULM aims at providing skill training to urban poor so that they can find gainful employment or set up self-employment ventures. It also provides credit at subsidized rate of interest for individual / group micro-enterprises to help the urban poor.

The Government has also launched “Housing for All (Urban) Mission ( Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna) on 25.06.2015. The Mission aims to provide assistance to States / UTs in addressing the housing requirement of the slum dwellers and urban poor through following four verticals:

- (i) “In situ” Slum Redevelopment through private participation using land as resource;
- (ii) Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS);
- (iii) Affordable Housing in Partnership; and
- (iv) Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction or enhancement.

Besides, the Government is implementing major programmes in rural areas, including Rajasthan, namely; Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for wage employment, National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) for livelihoods promotion through self employment, Indira Awaas Yojana for rural housing, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for rural connectivity, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for social assistance to rural poor through the State / UT Governments. These programmes are aimed at betterment of rural livelihoods and overall development of rural areas through creation of employment opportunities, infrastructures and providing social assistance to the rural poor.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

### Apprehensions about nuclear safety

2721. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the apprehensions about nuclear safety in India, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether experts have opined that India is having untested reactor designs, used in atomic power plants, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect people and to have tested equipments in the plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. There are apprehensions in some sections of the public about safety of the nuclear power plants and loss of traditional means of livelihood like fishing and agriculture. These are being addressed through ongoing public outreach programmes by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).

(b) No, Sir. However, such opinions have been expressed in the press by some individuals, without any scientific basis.

(c) Safety is accorded utmost attention in all phases of nuclear power plants from siting, design, construction, commissioning and operation. The reactors are provided with multi-layer safety provisions and series of physical barriers to prevent the release of radioactivity beyond acceptable limits and thereby protect the personnel, public, and environment. The safety of the nuclear power reactors to be set up in the country is extensively reviewed at every stage by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), and the reactors are set up and operated strictly in accordance with its stage-wise clearances. The safety standards set by AERB are in line with international standards.

#### **Use of Radiation Technology for fruits and vegetables**

2722. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking about using nuclear radiation technology developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for increasing the shelf life of fruits and vegetables, especially that of onions and potatoes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of radiation plants established by Government so far together with the details of the fruits and vegetables whose shelf life have been increased; and

(c) whether Government has conducted tests to ascertain that the technology approved by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Commission is safe and there are no safety issues whatsoever, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India has cleared several commodities under the Atomic Energy (Radiation Processing of Food & Allied Products) Rules 2012