(b) The participation of the Indian private sector in the supply of equipments and services for nuclear power generation in the country has increased considerably over time in both scale and the capacities to build/manufacture systems, equipments, components and structures to print or design specifications. The private sector provides core reactor components, services in core areas that includes construction, fabrication and erection of equipments, piping, electrical, instrumentation, and consultancy, auxiliary and logistical services.

(c) For the present, participation of Indian private sector in nuclear power generation projects will continue to be as per the existing provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962. Private sector can participate in setting up of nuclear power plants as a junior equity partner.

Nuclear power plants in Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) whether Government is considering setting up of nuclear power plants in Andhra Pradesh in addition to the one already in the works, if so, the details and time-frame thereof;

(b) whether the new ventures would be in public sector, private sector or PPP mode;

(c) whether the site selection and other preliminary works have been completed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame for completing these works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH) : (a) The Government of India has accorded "In-principle" approval for setting up of nuclear power reactors with international technical co-operation with the United States of America (USA) at Kovvada (v) Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh. At present, the pre-project activities comprising of Land Acquisition, Environmental Clearance by MoEF, geo-technical and other scientific studies for regulatory clearances are in progress at the site. Further, discussions between Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Government of Andhra Pradesh for location of the second Russian technology based Light Water Reactor (LWR) Nuclear Power Plant are at an advanced stage.

(b) Decision in this regard would be taken at an appropriate time.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Nuclear scientists died mysteriously

329. SHRI HARIVANSH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of nuclear scientists who died under mysterious circumstances during last five years;

(b) the details of the safety measures provided to the scientists to protect them from nuclear radiation; and

(c) the details of Government's plan to tackle with any untoward situations caused in the nuclear plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH) : (a) The number of nuclear scientists who died in unnatural circumstances mainly relating to road accidents and suicides for the period from 01.01.2010 to 15.07.2015 are 12.

(b) Safety of occupational workers in nuclear facilities is considered as one of the top priorities during the design, construction and operation of nuclear facilities. The plants are designed with engineered safety features and administrative controls to ensure that the persons working in the plant are radiologically protected. Safety standards, stipulated by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), are meticulously followed as per national and international standards. Regular monitoring of ambient radiation levels, air activity and contamination levels are carried out under the supervision of Radiological Safety Officer (RSO) appointed by AERB. Necessary protective equipments are provided to plant personnel to ensure radiological safety. Personnel dosimetry programme is in place to ensure that radiological exposure are much below the prescribed limits.

(c) Nuclear facilities in India are designed, constructed, commissioned and operated in conformity with relevant nuclear safety requirements. These requirements ensure an adequate margin of safety so that nuclear facilities can be operated without undue radiological risks to the plant personnel and members of the public. Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) plans are developed as a measure of abundant caution in accordance with the national and international laws and regulations and to deal with effective management of any eventuality. The efficacy of EPR is tested by conducting