

Negative health impacts of radiation

1443. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any negative health impact in and around nuclear power plants in the country has been found by any national or international agency due to radiation, if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken in this regard;

(b) whether the State Governments have been instructed to start their own Directorate of Radiation Safety (DRS) and enforce Atomic Energy Regulatory Board safety norms, if so, the number of States that have established such bodies till date; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to ensure that the remaining States establish such department within a definite time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has not come across any report of any genuine negative health impact in and around the Nuclear Power Plants in the country due to radiation.

(b) Yes, Sir. AERB has strongly urged all State Governments and Union Territories to establish Directorate of Radiation Safety (DRS)/Radiation Safety Agency (RSA), for carrying out inspections of the medical X-ray diagnostic facilities in their respective States, in order to ensure that these facilities comply with the safety requirements specified by AERB. Six States have already established DRS/RSA.

(c) AERB follows up periodically with the remaining States to ensure that they expeditiously establish similar DRS/RSA for conducting inspection of medical X-ray diagnostic facilities located in those States. In this connection, AERB has signed MoUs for establishing DRS/RSA with seven more States.

Investment in atomic energy sector

†1444. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is expectation of increase in investment in the atomic energy sector in the country in the wake of enforcement of new rules regarding nuclear liability, the quantum of the foreign investment in the atomic sector currently;

(b) whether the foreign companies investing in India would also transfer technology for atomic energy; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.