

(c) Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a Public Sector Undertaking under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has set up plant facilities for processing Mixed Rare Earth Chloride (MRCL) (produced from Monazite) to produce intermediate products in the value chain *i.e.* separated high pure rare earths. IREL is also in the process of setting up a plant to produce rare earth permanent magnet for strategic use in DAE, Defence, Space etc. based on technology developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai and Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), Hyderabad.

**Establishment of Directorates of Radiation Safety (DRS) and
Radiation Safety Agency (RSA) by AERB**

3202. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has not been able to establish Directorates of Radiation Safety (DRS) and Radiation Safety Agency (RSA) in each of the States effectively, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of the States where DRS/RSA is functioning effectively, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of efforts/plans/actions being pursued to achieve remaining objectives in the matter along with the timeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Presently Directorate of Radiation Safety (DRS)/ Radiation Safety Agency (RSA) is functioning in six States *viz.* Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Punjab. In addition, MoU has been signed by AERB with Department of Health and Family Welfare of seven States *viz.* Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

(b) DRS/RSA of Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram are working effectively and involved in conducting regulatory inspections of medical diagnostic X-ray facilities of their respective States. RSA, Punjab has raised concerns on the financial sustainability of its DRS/RSA and has not initiated regulatory inspection of medical diagnostic X-ray facilities of the State.

(c) Efforts/ Plans/Actions pursued by AERB to achieve the objectives are as follows:

AERB has implemented alternate methods towards effective regulation such as (a) Establishment of e-governance licensing system named as "e-LORA" (electronic Licensing of Radiation Application) for convenient access to the regulatory services

throughout the country (b) Establishment of Northern, Eastern and Southern AERB Regional Regulatory Centres at Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai respectively for providing radiological surveillance (c) Conducting unannounced inspections and enforcement of regulatory actions on non-compliant institutions (d) Wide coverage and outreach through media.

In addition, following actions have also been taken:

- (i) AERB had sent a booklet to the Principal/Chief Secretary (Health) of all States detailing the requirements for formation of DRS in October 2002. Information on the Kerala model of DRS was also sent to all the States.
- (ii) AERB communicated again to all the States in 2010 for formation of DRS. DRS/RSA of five States were authorized by AERB during 2011-2015.
- (iii) AERB has organised periodic workshops in 2005, 2009 and most recently in 2015, for voluntary participation by all the States to discuss on the issues of formation of DRS.
- (iv) The States where DRS is functional have also been provided with access to e-LORA licensing system of AERB for their information and regulatory functions as per MoU.

Nuclear power plant at Mithi Viridi in Gujarat

3203. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the first choice of a site for a new nuclear power plant by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) was to be located at a Mithi Viridi in Gujarat;
- (b) what are the reasons for abandoning Mithi Viridi in Gujarat;
- (c) whether local people have raised fierce objection to a nuclear plant in their area; and
- (d) the reasons for shifting the nuclear power plant away from Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Chhaya Mithi Viridi was one among the four new coastal sites accorded 'in principle' approval for setting up nuclear power plants with foreign technical cooperation.

- (b) The site at Chhaya Mithi Viridi has not been abandoned.
- (c) There have been protests by some sections of the local people against setting up of nuclear power plant at the site.
- (d) The nuclear power plant has not been shifted away from Gujarat. Chhaya Mithi Viridi in Gujarat and Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh are designated for setting up nuclear