

(c) The nuclear power projects in the State of Tamil Nadu: Kudankulam Units 3 and 4 (under construction) and Kudankulam Units 5 and 6 (sanctioned) are being implemented by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

New Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority Bill

1284. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Department is in the process of drafting a new Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority Bill, as the previous Bill could not be passed in Parliament;
- (b) if so, the details of substantial changes proposed therein; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to convert the functional independence of our national nuclear regulator, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), *into de jure* independence, the proposal for setting up a Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority (NSRA) has been under consideration. Accordingly, Government had introduced the Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority Bill, 2011 in the Lok Sabha in September, 2011, which was subsequently referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests. The amendments proposed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee were incorporated in the Bill in the year 2013. The Bill, however, could not be taken up for consideration before the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha. A fresh Bill similar to the one introduced earlier, is under examination.

The proposed Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority will provide statutory basis to nuclear safety regulation in India, thus ensuring its *de jure* independence, and will further strengthen nuclear and radiation safety regulations in the country.

- (c) Question does not arise.

Environmental Impact Assessment for Neutrino Observatory Project

1285. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Department has sought a Category-A Environmental Impact