

(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

Assessment for its India-based Neutrino Observatory project, in line with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Order of March, 2017 which mandated it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable, in view of (a) above.

(c) As per the guidelines of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) [S.O. 3252(E) dated 22nd December, 2014] the Environmental Clearance has been filed in Category-B, Schedule-8a.

Review of bilateral relation with Pakistan

1286. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bilateral relations with Pakistan have been very tense during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether Government would review our relations with Pakistan in a fresh manner;

(c) whether Government would have an all party discussion on this issue; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (d) No Sir, it is not true that bilateral relations between India and Pakistan have been very tense during the last three years. In fact, during the years 2014 and 2015, there was considerable improvement in bilateral relations. During the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Islamabad in December, 2015 both sides agreed to a the meeting at the level of Foreign Secretaries to work out the modalities of a Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue. However, the terrorist attack on the Pathankot airbase in January, 2016; continued support to cross border terrorism and ceasefire violations by Pakistan forces; and