

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****India-based Neutrino Observatory**

1761. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that environmental rules and regulations were relaxed to a considerable extent with a view to obtain environment clearance to proceed further with India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has chosen any alternative location for this project in view of severe protest by locals against the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

(e) Pottipuram is a good site for the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project. A public meeting was held, following a strong outreach programme, in 2010 where there was overwhelming support for the project. Presently large outreach programme has been undertaken involving:

(1) Interactions in schools and colleges in Madurai, Theni and a few other Districts;

(2) Meetings with the press and TV channels, and

(3) Arranging visits to the transit Inter-Institutional Centre for High Energy Physics (IICHEP) campus at Madurai to see the recently commissioned 85 ton, 1/200th scale prototype mini-ICAL detector.