

(IAEA) for importing Uranium;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any complaint has been lodged with IAEA against India in connection with flouting of environmental rules/norms while importing Uranium; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Uranium is imported from Russia, Kazakhstan, France and Canada through Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mumbai and Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Hyderabad. However, no uranium has been imported from Uzbekistan so far.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

Agreement between NPCIL and EDF of France

4325. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and EDF of France have signed an agreement for building 10,000 MW Jaitapur nuclear power plant, making India the fifth country to opt for the European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) technology that is yet to become commercially operational anywhere in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all the nuclear power projects using the EPR technology currently under construction are facing time and cost overruns; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and *Electricite de France* (EDF) of France have on March 10, 2018 signed an Industrial Way Forward Agreement for implementation of six nuclear power reactor units at Jaitapur, Maharashtra with a total capacity of about 10,000 MW. The

Evolutionary Pressurized Reactors (EPRs) are evolutionary reactors, whose design has evolved from “KONVOI” and “N4” reactors which have been in operation in Germany and France respectively for about two decades. Further, the work at Jaitapur will be commenced only on demonstration of full power operation of Flamanville-3 under construction in France, as reference plant, to have an operationally proven technology.

(c) and (d) There are currently four EPRs under construction *viz.* Olkiluoto-3 in Finland, Flamanville-3 in France and Taishan 1 and 2 in China. There have been reports that these reactors are delayed. There is delay in execution of the project and this is not attributable to the technology itself.

Special forum for inclusive growth in NER

4326. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has created a special forum to boost inclusive growth in the North-Eastern Region (NER) of our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is planning for more such initiatives to identify various constraints in the way of sustainable growth in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) NITI Forum for North East has been constituted under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and co-chairmanship of Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. The members of the Forum include CEO, NITI Aayog, Chief Secretaries of North Eastern States, Secretaries of key Ministries/ Departments, retired bureaucrats, economists and academicians. The terms of reference of the Forum, *inter alia*, include identification of various constraints on the way for accelerated, inclusive but sustainable economic growth in the North East Region of the country and to recommend suitable interventions for addressing identified constraints.

(c) Government has taken concerted efforts for up-gradation of infrastructure in the North Eastern Region. All Central Ministries, unless specifically exempted, are required to spend 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support in the North Eastern Region not only through their ongoing schemes, but also through dedicated schemes/projects for the North Eastern Region. Several initiatives have been taken by the Government of India for basic infrastructure development and providing road, rail, water, telecom and air connectivity in the North Eastern Region which, *inter alia*, include the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East, Broad