

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****Nuclear waste disposal**

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

(a) the details of specially constructed structures, both above and underground, meant for nuclear waste disposal located in the country;

(b) the details of the steps taken by Government to monitor the underground soil and water samples in/or near specially constructed structures used for disposing nuclear waste materials; and

(c) the details of agencies/organisations which have been engaged to monitor/ assess the quality and contamination of soil and water in/or near specially constructed structures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The solid wastes generated from nuclear facilities, depending upon their radioactivity content are stored/ disposed of in engineered structures such as stone lined trenches, reinforced concrete trenches and tile holes. These structures are designed on multi-barrier principle for ensuring effective containment of radioactivity. These structures are located within plant/facility premises in access-controlled areas.

(b) The areas where the waste disposal structures are located are provided with bore-wells in a planned manner. These bore wells are routinely monitored to confirm effective confinement of radioactivity present in the disposed waste. The regular monitoring is done as per the requirements which are in line with the guidelines of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

(c) The monitoring of various environmental matrices such as air, water, soil etc., in and around the waste disposal facilities is carried out by independent Environmental Survey Laboratories (ESL) of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) which are stationed at all the nuclear sites.

**Atomic power generation**

444. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to improvement in supply of Atomic Fuel, production of Atomic Energy has improved in various atomic power plants, during the last three years;