

Storage of spent fuel near Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project

3658. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether villagers are opposing the move to set up an 'Away from Reactor' facility for storage of spent fuel near Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government would take to convince the villagers that their interests would be protected and they should not create hurdles in the way of setting up the facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) No public hearing has taken place so far. There has been some opposition to setting up of "Away From Reactor"(AFR) facility at Kudankulam by a section of the people living around the site because of misinformation being spread by some groups.

(c) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a public sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has enhanced its public awareness programme and is addressing the concerns of the public related to AFR. The measures taken in this regard include issue of press releases giving clarifications on the concerns raised in the media, distribution of pamphlets in simple local language about the AFR in surrounding villages, explaining about the proposed AFR to public during site visits, inviting more local people to visit the site, briefing of State officials and addressing public about the AFR during public functions.

Foreign Direct Investment in telecom sector

3659. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in telecom sector during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the new telecom policy envisages FDI in telecom sector to reach USD hundred billion by 2022 and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard; and