

environment unless the same is cleared, exempted or excluded from regulations. A comprehensive radioactive waste management is established taking into account the operational capability for the management of radioactive waste and an independent regulatory capability for its overview. The nuclear waste management practices are at par with international practices following the guidelines of International Atomic Energy Agency.

Disposal of atomic wastes

615. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to dispose the atomic wastes generated in Kudankulam Atomic Power Station at the complex itself; and

(b) whether such a decision would expose the people living there to atomic radiation and also ill-effects of pollution caused due to atomic waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The wastes generated in solid, liquid and gaseous forms during the operation of nuclear power stations, including Kudankulam are of low and intermediate radioactivity level, which are managed at the site in dedicated waste management facilities. The wastes are appropriately treated, concentrated and subject to volume reduction. The concentrates are immobilized in inert materials like cement, bitumen, polymers etc. and stored in specially constructed structures located at the site under monitoring. The radioactivity level of the stored wastes reduces with time and by the end of the plant life, falls to a very low level. The treated liquids and gases are diluted and discharged under monitoring, ensuring that the discharges are well within the limits set by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The waste management facility at Kudankulam site has been in operation since 2013.

(b) The design of all Nuclear Power Plants, including Kudankulam is such that the radiation dose to members of the public would be well within the limit stipulated by AERB. The radiation dose at Kudankulam site boundary derived from monitoring of environmental matrices like, air, water, vegetation, crops, seafood, etc. around the site is a negligible fraction of the stipulated limit and the natural background. Thus, there is no adverse impact of the wastes generated during operation of Kudankulam - 1&2 on the people living in the vicinity.

Mobile and landline services in villages

†616. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people are not getting uniform mobile and landline services in the country and these services are quite unsatisfactory specially in villages;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.