

(c) Various measures for further strengthening of Information Security in administrative networks have been taken up viz. hardening of internet and administrative intranet connectivity, restriction on removable media, blocking of websites and IPs which have been identified with malicious activity etc.

The Computer and Information Security Advisory Group (CISAG) of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has recommended certain measures for immediate and short term implementation. These are being complied with.

(d) The expenditure towards cyber security is a part of the regular revenue expenditure.

Contract to supply Uranium ore concentrates

1123. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed a long-term contract with Uzbekistan to supply Uranium ore concentrates to fuel nuclear reactors in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India had similar agreements with many more countries for the supply of Uranium ore; and

(d) if so, whether India has been receiving the contracted material from those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRASINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) India has signed a long term contract with Uzbekistan on 18.01.2019 for supply of 1100 MTU of natural Uranium ore concentrates during the years 2022 to 2026.

(c) Yes Sir. India has entered into similar agreements with overseas suppliers from various countries like Canada, Kazakhstan and France for the supply of Uranium ore.

(d) Yes Sir.

Increase in nuclear power energy generation

1124. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase nuclear power generation capacity in the country to meet the growing demand in rural areas to better the quality of life;

(b) if so, the details thereof including Total capacity likely to be added over and above 6780 MW in the next five years duly taking into account fairly easy availability of Uranium and Thorium now;

(c) whether Government proposes to emulate the models of France and China to increase power generation capacity through nuclear energy besides conventional and renewable means; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRASINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seven (7) reactor units with 5300 MW capacity which are under construction are expected to be completed in the next five years, taking the installed nuclear power capacity from 6780 MW to 12080 MW. In addition, ground preparations are underway for four (4) more units having 3400 MW capacity. The Government has accorded administrative approval and financial sanction of ten (10) more indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) of 700 MW each to be set up in fleet mode. On their progressive completion by 2031, the capacity will reach 22480 MW (including 500 MW being implemented by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited [BHAVINI]).

(c) and (d) India is pursuing a unique three-stage nuclear power programme based on indigenous technologies to optimally utilise India's nuclear energy resources and ensure long term energy security along with reactors based on foreign cooperation as additionalities. All energy resources conventional, renewable and nuclear are being deployed in an optimal manner to meet the electricity demand of the country in a sustainable manner.

Retirement age of BSNL and MTNL employees

1125. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to change the retirement age of BSNL and MTNL employees to 50 instead of the current age of 60, if so, the rationale behind the consideration;