

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*50
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2021

REDUCED BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR ATOMIC ENERGY PROJECTS

*50. Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the reduced capital expenditure for the Atomic Energy sector during 2021-22 is likely to affect a number of ongoing important projects;
- (b) if so, the details of projects likely to get affected; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that the ongoing projects do not get adversely affected due to shortfall in budgetary allocation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)to(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. *50 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 02.12.2021 BY SHRI SAMBHAJI
CHHATRAPATI REGARDING REDUCED BUDGETARY ALLOCATION ON
ATOMIC ENERGY PROJECTS

- (a) No, Sir. The Budget proposed by DAE for Capital expenditure during 2021-22 was Rs.17,796.24 crore and approved BE 2021-22 for Capital Expenditure is Rs.11,403.20 Crore. There is a shortfall of Rs. 6393.04 crore. However, it is brought out that due to Covid-19 Pandemic, the situation had not completely normalised at Project sites till the first half of 2021-22. Therefore, no major adverse impact is anticipated on the progress of various ongoing projects.
- (b) Not applicable in view of reply at (a) above.
- (c) No additional requirement of funds is anticipated during the year 2021–22. Re-allocation between the Projects would be made by reviewing their priority and completion status, for projects requiring additional funds.

भारत सरकार
परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग
राज्य सभा
तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या *50
जिसका उत्तर दिनांक 02.12.2021 को दिया जाना है

परमाणु ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं के लिए बजटीय आवंटन में कटौती किया जाना

*50. श्री संभाजी छत्रपती :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

- (क) क्या वर्ष 2021-22 के दौरान परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में पूंजीगत व्यय में कटौती किए जाने से वर्तमान में चल रही अनेक महत्वपूर्ण परियोजनाओं के प्रभावित होने की संभावना है;
- (ख) यदि हाँ, तो उन परियोजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है जिनके प्रभावित होने की संभावना है; और
- (ग) सरकार यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि बजटीय आवंटन में कटौती के कारण वर्तमान में चल रही परियोजनाओं पर कोई प्रतिकूल प्रभाव न पड़े, क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

उत्तर

राज्य मंत्री, कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन तथा प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय (डॉ. जितेन्द्र सिंह) :

(क) से (ग) सदन के पटल पर विवरण प्रस्तुत है ।

भारत सरकार
परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग

"परमाणु ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं के लिए बजटीय आबंटन में कटौती किया जाना" के संबंध में श्री संभाजी छत्रपती द्वारा पूछे गए राज्य सभा तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या *50, जिसका उत्तर दिनांक 02.12.2021 को दिया जाना है, के उत्तर में संदर्भित विवरण ।

- (क) जी, नहीं । वर्ष 2021-22 के दौरान पूंजीगत व्यय के लिए डीईई द्वारा प्रस्तावित बजट रूपए 17,796.24 करोड़ था और पूंजीगत व्यय के लिए अनुमोदित बजट आंकलन 2021-22 रूपए 11,403.20 करोड़ है । यह रूपए 6393.04 करोड़ कम है । तथापि, यह ध्यान में लाया जाता है कि कोविड-19 वैश्विक महामारी के कारण, वर्ष 2021-22 के पूर्वार्द्ध तक परियोजना स्थलों पर स्थिति पूरी तरह सामान्य नहीं हुई है । अतः विभिन्न चालू परियोजनाओं की प्रगति पर कोई बड़ा विपरीत प्रभाव प्रत्याशित नहीं है ।
- (ख) उपरोक्त (क) के उत्तर के मद्देनजर लागू नहीं ।
- (ग) वर्ष 2021-22 के दौरान निधि की कोई अतिरिक्त आवश्यकता अनुमानित नहीं की गई है । अतिरिक्त निधियों की आवश्यकता वाली परियोजनाओं के लिए प्राथमिकता और पूर्णता स्थिति की समीक्षा कर परियोजनाओं के बीच पुनःआबंटन किया जाएगा ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Any supplementaries?

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Sir, I wish to know from the Government which are the foreign companies that are helping us in construction of our nuclear reactors and also which are the companies that are supplying essential equipments for the nuclear plants, and is there any China angle to it because of national security?

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: As far as foreign collaboration is concerned, wherever it is done, all the safeguards are in place. We have an Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, which lays down certain parameters, guidelines and advisories, and at the same time, we also follow the international guidelines. It is not only one part or one angle or one country, which you are referring to, but, other aspects are also taken into consideration. So, the plants are very secure and all the safeguards are in place. This is the reason that during Covid pandemic also, the generation of plants did not suffer to the extent that has been anticipated. If you see, broadly, the major projects are in collaboration with, as I said in my response to the earlier question, Russia, France and the U.S.--by a company called Westing House--a Government-linked company. Primarily, these are the companies. Even in respect of these countries, specifically, safeguards are taken. It is not that they are taken for granted. From time to time, inspections are done and all other regulations are also ensured to be put in place.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, for the year 2020-21, the budgetary grant towards capital expenditure of atomic energy is Rs. 9,345 crore whereas the revised figure is Rs. 5,962 crore. The hon. Minister, in his earlier answer, said that so many nuclear power projects have been sanctioned during the current regime. In reality, there is a gap of Rs. 3,383 crore between the original estimate and the revised estimate. It is an under-spending. May I know the reasons for the under-utilisation?

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. There has been a shortfall which happened in all the Ministries and Departments. It is not specific to this Department or Ministry. It is mostly on account of Covid. In spite of the shortfall, it will not lead to any major adverse effect as far as power generation is concerned because, as I said, the generation has increased over the years due to a pro-active involvement of our scientists and workers. Not only that, in spite of the shortfall in the amount which you mentioned between the Budget allocation and the approved amount later, NPCIL, which controls the atomic energy plants, has been in a position to make monetary contributions to the cause of Covid, Rs. 26 crore directly, and, in the form of CSR, more than Rs. 42 crore. In addition, I would use this opportunity to place on record its contribution in the times of Covid; it has been miraculous. In fact, Bhabha Atomic Plant, for the first time, came out with a model of reusing PPE kits at a time when we were short of PPE kits. It also came out with Covid-V, Covid-Vikram. So, in spite of the shortfall, which was anticipated and which happened in every Department and Ministry, we have been able to cope up with it. I am sure, in the years to come, this would be made good in the proper sense.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 51. The questioner is absent. माननीय मंत्री जी।