

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.660
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2022

India's Nuclear / Atomic Energy

660. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of current share of India's atomic/nuclear energy in India's energy mix;
- (b) whether the Government has initiated any steps in the wake of the Ukraine war, peaking Oil & Gas prices and ramping up of atomic/nuclear energy production by many countries;
- (c) the details of the nuclear energy capacity installed in India after the Indo-US Civil Nuclear agreement, 2008 till date;
- (d) whether Indian have been able to reconcile the fundamental incompatibility between its Civil Nuclear Liability Law of 2010 and international conventions;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the Civil Nuclear Liability Law has become an impediment in accessing foreign technology for nuclear research;
- (f) whether the C&AG have been critical of the relationship between Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and Department of Atomic Energy and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the status of the Nuclear Safety Regulatory Bill and whether it has been shelved by the current Government?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation in the country in the year 2021-22 was about 3.15%.
- (b) The Government has arranged for adequate quantity of fuel to enable operation of the existing nuclear power reactors at rated capacity. In addition, the Government had earlier sanctioned projects to increase the current installed nuclear power capacity of 6780 MW to 22480 MW by 2031.

- (c) A nuclear power capacity of 2660 MW comprising of RAPP 5&6 (2X220 MW), KGS-4 (220 MW) and KKNPP 1&2 (2X1000 MW) has been added after 2008. In addition, nuclear power projects with a total capacity of 15,200 MW have been accorded sanction since 2008 and are at various stages of implementation.
- (d) The provisions of the CLND Act are in compliance with the Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) and its Annex in terms of channelling the strict/absolute legal liability to the operator, the limitations of the liability in amount and time, liability cover by insurance and financial security, definitions of nuclear installation, damage, etc. In fact the CLND Act has provided the basis for India joining the CSC. Article XVIII of CSC requires that the national law of a contracting party that is not a party to either the Vienna Convention or the Paris Convention has to comply with the provisions of the Annex to CSC. The CLND Act is in compliance with the Annex to the CSC.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) C&AG carried out a performance audit of activities of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) in 2012 and has made certain observations on the independence of AERB in view of its reporting to Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) which is chaired by Secretary of DAE. While AERB had explained its functional autonomy in its regulatory decision making, C&AG had expressed the desirability for the regulatory body to be established through legislation on a legally independent basis.
- (g) "The Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority (NSRA) Bill, 2011" was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7 September 2011. However, the Bill along with its official amendments could not be taken up for consideration by the 15th Lok Sabha due to its dissolution. Subsequently, a Note for Cabinet on NSRA Bill, 2015 which is essentially the NSRA Bill, 2011 along with official amendments had been submitted to Cabinet Secretariat for Cabinet approval after fresh inter-ministerial consultations. However, the Committee on Secretaries advised the Department to re-examine the Bill. The Department, thus, constituted a Committee for re-examination and withdrew the Cabinet Note seeking approval for introduction of NSRA Bill, 2015, and was not pursued further.
