

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 622
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2021

SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

622. SHRI T.R. BAALU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the spent nuclear fuel of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is not being sent back to Russia in accordance with the Agreement signed with that Government and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is also the fact that the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd is constructing a Spent Fuel Storage Facility within the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant premises itself which will pose utmost hazard to the people and environment of the area; and
- (c) the action been taken by the Government of India on the representations made by the people of the area and environmental agencies to set up a Deep Geological Repository in far-flung uninhabited place to store the spent fuel from various nuclear power plant complexes safely without hazard to the people and environment?

ANSWER

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

- (a)&(c) Yes, Sir. India Russia Inter Governmental Agreement of 2010 facilitates storage and reprocessing of Spent Nuclear Fuel of KKNPP in line with India's closed fuel cycle policy. India has adopted "closed fuel cycle", where spent nuclear fuel is regarded as a material of resource. Given the very small quantity of high level waste generated post reprocessing and technologies for separation, partitioning and burning of waste being developed by the country, there is no need of deep underground geological disposal facility in the near future.
- (b) The scheme of storage of spent (used) fuel in a nuclear power plant is two-fold. The first place of storing spent fuel is located within the reactor building/service building, generally known as the spent fuel storage pool/bay and the other is called the 'Away From Reactor' (AFR) Spent Fuel Storage Facility, within the plant premises. These facilities are designed with a comprehensive approach to safety to withstand extreme natural events like earthquakes and tsunamis with provisions of large operational safety margins for safe, sound and reliable performance. These are designed to ensure that there would be no adverse impact on plant personnel, general public or the environment. AFRs are also already constructed and functional at other sites like Tarapur, Maharashtra and Rawatbhata, Rajasthan.