

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 162**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2022

**Cyber threats to nuclear plants**

162 Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps have been taken to strengthen the country's cyber-nuclear security infrastructure after the September 2019 cyber-attack on the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has taken any measures based on the audits made by the Computer & Information Security Advisory Group and Computer Emergency Response Team to prevent atomic energy infrastructure against cyber threats; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

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- (a) In nuclear power plant systems, security arrangements are in place to secure the plant from cyber-attack. These security measures include authorization, authentication & access control mechanisms, strict configuration control and surveillance. Additionally, the nuclear power plant systems are isolated from internet and are not accessible from administrative network. Several measures have been taken to strengthen Information Security in administrative networks in nuclear power plants like, hardening of internet and administrative intranet connectivity, restriction on removable media, blocking of websites & IPs.
- (b)&(c) Investigations have been carried out by the Computer & Information Security Advisory Group (CISAG) – DAE along with the national agency, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In). The measures implemented based on their recommendations include

- Physical separation of Intranet & Internet access
- Secure virtual browsing terminal for dedicated internet use
- Secured data transfer provisions requiring authentication are in place
- Independent security review prior to posting of new web applications and/or change in LAN / Infrastructural architecture
- Constitution of a task force for oversight of information security posture on IT systems in the organisation, etc.
- Restricted usage of removable media

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