

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1282
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2021

ALTERNATE LOCATION FOR THE NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORY

1282. Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any alternate proposal, other than the proposed location of the nuclear waste repository for the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project's units 3 and 4 within the plant premises in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware about the great danger and threat to the health & safety of the people if the nuclear waste are to be stored in the Kudankulam complex itself; and
- (d) if so, details of the solutions thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) The spent (used) nuclear fuel is not nuclear waste but a valuable resource which is reprocessed to obtain fuel for the next stage of the programme and other valuable radioisotopes. The spent fuel is stored within the reactor building/service building, generally known as the spent fuel storage pool/bay and the 'Away From Reactor' (AFR) Spent Fuel Storage Facility, within the plant premises till such time it is sent for reprocessing to reprocessing facility.
- (c)&(d) The facilities for storage of spent (used) fuel in the premises of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project 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.
