

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3841
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2023

Accumulation of spent nuclear fuel

3841 Shri P. Wilson:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken any steps with regard to accumulation of Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) in all nuclear power plants in the State of Tamil Nadu, including Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant and the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant;
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken steps to establish a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) where SNF from all nuclear power plants in Tamil Nadu, such as, Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant and Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant could be safely stored; and
- (c) If so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefore?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) India has adopted a "closed fuel cycle", where Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) is treated not as waste but as a valuable resource which is reprocessed to obtain fuel for the next stage. 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 a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) in the near future.
