

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 508
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2023

Safety Upkeep of Atomic Entities

508. SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government for safety upkeep of Kakrapar atomic power station & Heavy Water Producing units at Vadodara, Hazira in Gujarat which are the entities of DAE;
- (b) whether the Government conducts regular checking/inspection of various machineries/equipments installed at all these entities of DAE to prevent related accidents; and
- (c) whether in coordination with the State Government of Gujarat including State Police, routine drills for rescue/evacuation are carried out at above said places that might be helpful in case of any untoward incident and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) There is a robust internal and independent regulatory mechanism in place and periodic safety reviews are carried out both by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) at all Nuclear Power Plants (NPP) including Kakrapar Atomic Power Station. Safety is not static and improvements/upgrades are effected in nuclear power plants based on evolving global standards, events and operating experience feedback. At the Heavy Water Board Facilities, Vadodara and Heavy Water Plant, Hazira, a well-designed safety management system is in place to ensure safety up-keep of these plants. The plant safety personnel possess relevant qualifications and sufficient experience to enforce the provisions of Factories Act, 1948 along with other statutory requirements.

- (b) Yes, Sir. The operating stations of NPCIL have a programme of predictive and preventive maintenance of equipment and components based on the health assessment using latest technology & tools and in-Service-Inspections. Likewise, the Heavy Water Board Facilities, Vadodara and Heavy Water Plant, Hazira conduct regular checks and inspections of various machineries and equipment to prevent accidents.
- (c) The Kakrapar Nuclear Power Station and Heavy Water Board Facilities, Vadodara and Heavy Water Plant, Hazira, in Gujarat have a detailed emergency preparedness plan in place. In an unlikely event calling declaration of an emergency, the responsibility of the various officers including State Government officials for implementing them are well defined. In addition, periodic emergency exercises and routine mock drills involving all stakeholders are carried out at regular intervals and the feedback from the exercises is used to validate and improve the emergency preparedness plans of the above establishments.
