

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.641**  
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

**Opening avenues for Small Modular Reactors for accelerating clean energy transition**

641 # Smt. Kanta Kardam :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that nuclear energy has been an important part of the global energy scenario and a key pillar in the transition to a carbon-free future, and in recent years, it is facing a number of issues including higher infrastructure costs and more extended construction periods, making development more challenging; and
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives proposed by Government to open avenues for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to accelerate clean energy transition?

**ANSWER**

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

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- (a) & (b) There is a thrust world over for a strategy to use nuclear power that could reduce reliance on fossil fuels over the coming years. Nuclear power is considered as one of the most promising clean energy options for power generation. Deploying Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) across the country especially in locations not suitable for large nuclear plants, could produce large amount of low-carbon electricity. In order to move away from fossil fuel consumption, SMRs could be installed and operated for repurposing the aging fossil fuel based power plants. However, nuclear power plants are to be installed and operated in line with stringent regulatory requirements to contain radiation and to avoid exposure to public in all circumstances.

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