

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2193
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

Small Modular Reactors

2193. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Department of Atomic Energy has taken any steps to promote and adopt the application of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Department has conducted any study regarding the effectiveness of SMRs in promoting renewable energy and reducing country's dependence on fossil fuel based energy and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the detailed views of the Department regarding the Report of NITI Ayog titled "A Report on The Role of Small Modular Reactors in the Energy Transition" which recommends on allowing foreign investment to promote SMR technology in the country; and
- (d) whether the Department has conducted any study to examine the possible laws (statutes, by-laws and rules) which have to be amended in the *status-quo* for allowing foreign investment to promote SMRs technology in the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Small Modular Reactors (SMR) is a promising technology in industrial de-carbonization especially where there is a requirement of reliable and continuous supply of power. India is considering steps for development of SMR, to fulfil its commitment to Clean Energy transition.
- (b) Detailed technical discussions are currently underway to plan a roadmap for studying the feasibility and effectiveness of deployment of such reactors. Augmentation of nuclear power capacity through large size reactors is the primary goal of the Department.
- (c) The Government of India is exploring the options of collaborating with other countries and taking up indigenous development of SMRs. The Future course of action will be finalized on the basis of the decision of the Government.
- d) Provisions of Atomic Energy Act, 1962 are being examined to allow participation of private sector and start-ups.

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