GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2116
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

Background Radiation

2116. SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN:
SHRI THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has the details of Natural High Background Radiation areas in our country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government has studied effect of radiation on the population of such areas and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is a fact that in certain parts of Kerala, background radiation levels emitted from natural sources such as rocks, sand or mountains are nearly three times more than what has been assumed according to a pan India study by scientists of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and if so, the details thereof:
(d) whether it is also true that this does not translate to an elevated health risk; and
(e) whether it is also true that there have been extensive studies in the past that have checked for higher rates of cancer or mortality and nothing out of the ordinary has been found 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) Yes Sir, Detailed scientific studies have been carried out by Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India in Natural High Background Radiation Areas (NHBRA). In India, Natural High Background Radiation areas were observed mainly along some coastal regions such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Odisha. These areas include: (i) Chavara-Neendakara region of Kollam, Kerala (ii) Karimanal Village of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala (iii) Manavalakurichi region of Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu and (iv) Chhatrapur in Odisha.

(b) to (e) Yes Sir, Studies on health assessment of population residing in natural high background radiation areas such as Udyogmandal, Chavara, Manavalakurichi and Chhatrapur are done since the past several decades. The studies have revealed that there are no observable adverse health effects on the population residing in natural high background radiation areas.

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