

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.324
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2018

STORING OF RADIOACTIVE NUCLEAR FUEL WASTES

324. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the existing nuclear power plants are not having facilities to safely store radioactive spent fuels and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government is setting up storage units to store these nuclear fuel wastes in Kudankulam and other nuclear power plants 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) All existing nuclear power plants have Spent Fuel Storage Bays / Spent Fuel Storage Facilities for safe storage of specified quantities of spent nuclear fuel.
- (b) India follows a closed fuel cycle policy and spent fuel is not considered as waste but reprocessed to obtain fuel for the next stage. An additional 'Away From Reactor (AFR)' spent fuel storage facility is being set up at Kudankulam to store spent nuclear fuel (beyond the quantity stored in the spent fuel storage facility in the reactors), till reprocessing facilities are established and the fuel is taken up for reprocessing.

AFRs are already in safe operation at Tarapur, Maharashtra since 1990 (AFR-1) & 2012 (AFR-2) and at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan since 2005.
