

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2020
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.07.2019

BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

2020. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has entered into or proposes to enter into bilateral agreement with nuclear supplier countries and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether India has conducted discussion with other countries for nuclear power exchange for civil nuclear programmes during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details regarding the agreement entered into with other countries for civil nuclear power during the last five years;
- (d) whether India proposes to adopt new nuclear power technology for civil programmes and if so, details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to undertake Research and Development (R&D) to acquire indigenous nuclear reactor technology in place of procuring expensive and undusted reactor facing challenges; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) India has entered into Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) with seventeen (17) countries some of which are nuclear supplier countries.
- (b) Yes, Sir. India has conducted discussions with USA, France and Russia during the last three years.

- (c) India has signed Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) with six countries viz. Australia, Sri Lanka, Japan, United Kingdom, Vietnam and Bangladesh during the past five years.
- (d) India's three-stage nuclear power programme is formulated to achieve country's long term energy security and independence, through the use of uranium and vast thorium reserves.

The three stages are:

1. Natural uranium fuelled Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs).
2. Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) utilizing plutonium based fuel.
3. Advanced nuclear power systems for utilization of thorium.

The first two stages, natural uranium-fuelled heavy water reactors (First stage) and plutonium-fuelled fast breeder reactors (second stage) are intended to generate sufficient fissile material from India's limited uranium resources, so that all our vast thorium reserves can be fully utilized in the third stage of nuclear power program. In stage three of program, self-sustaining advanced nuclear power systems will use Thorium-232-U-233 fuel to generate power, utilising large resources of thorium and thus ensuring long term energy security and independence.

- (e)&(f) Yes, Sir. As mentioned above in (d), the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is already carrying out indigenous Research and Development (R&D) activities for development of Advanced Nuclear Power systems to meet the long term energy requirements of the country in line with our three-stage nuclear power programme.
