

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 642
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2017

UNIT- 2 OF KUDANKULAM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

642. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Unit-2 of Kudankulam nuclear power plant was non-operational for a substantial period during the year 2017;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government would come forward to adopt new technology to over-come such faults in operating nuclear power plants across the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Kudankulam Unit – 2 (KKNPP-2, 1000MW) attained first criticality (start of controlled self sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction for the first time) on July 10, 2016. Following the first criticality, various tests at low power, primarily core physics experiments were conducted to establish meeting of design intent. The unit power was raised to about 400 MW and connected to the grid on August 29, 2016. The power level was thereafter raised in steps of 75%, 90% and full power (100%) in line with regulatory clearances. The unit was declared commercial on March 31, 2017. It had generated 2327 Million Units of infirm (non commercial) power before start of commercial operation. In the current financial year 2017-18, the unit generated 2384 Million Units upto November 2017.

During the year 2017, the Unit-2 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project underwent a major shutdown during the period August 04, 2017 to November 19, 2017. The unit was reconnected to the grid on November 20, 2017 and reached its full capacity of 1000 MW on December 05, 2017. It has since been operating at full power.

- (b) The unit was shut down due to an issue noticed in the generator. As per the existing procedure, the incident was thoroughly investigated, root cause analysis carried out and the necessary repairs carried out in consultation with Russian experts.
- (c) While KKNPP 1&2 set up in cooperation with the Russian Federation are Light Water Reactors (LWR), bulk of the reactors in operation in India are Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR), a technology which is matured in the country, Thus there is no such requirement.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.
