GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1122
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.12.2017

GENERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER

1122. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 years since the constitution of our Atomic Energy Commission in 1948, the total installed capacity of nuclear power in India has reached only 6,780 MWe, comprising 22 nuclear reactors;

(b) whether with a total installed capacity of 315,426 MWe in the country, the nuclear power share is thus a minuscule 2.15 per cent of it;

(c) if so, what is the per unit cost of generating nuclear power as a return for each Rupee spent when compared with other sources and other countries; and

(d) whether any further investments in nuclear power is beneficial for the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The low installed capacity base of nuclear power in the country is mainly on account of the technology development in an international embargo regime that persisted from 1974 to 2008 and constraint of resources faced during the initial decades of the nuclear power programme, as it had to depend solely on budgetary support.

(b) The low share of nuclear power in the total installed capacity is on account of its low capacity base. However, the installed capacity is now expected to increase gradually, to 22480 MW (including PFBR, 500 MW being implemented by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited [BHAVINI]) by 2031 on progressive completion of projects under construction and accorded administrative approval & financial sanction by the Government of India.

(c) The average tariff of nuclear power in the financial year 2016-17 was ₹2.95 per unit, with tariffs of stations ranging from ₹1.07 in case of the oldest station TAPS 1&2 to ₹4.10 in respect of the latest station, KKNPP 1&2. The present tariff norms for nuclear power are based on recovery of relevant costs and a return on equity of 15.5%, to be grossed up with normal tax rate applicable during each year of the tariff period. The norms are similar to that notified by various Electricity Regulatory Commissions for other electricity generating technologies.

(d) Yes, Sir. Nuclear is a clean, environment friendly base load source of power available 24X7. It also has huge potential which will ensure long term energy security of the country in a sustainable manner. Therefore nuclear energy is an important component of the country's energy mix and is being pursued along with other sources of energy in an optimal manner.

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