

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-327
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

SMALL CAPACITY NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

327. SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government is planning to enhance nuclear power capacity in collaboration with private sector in the country and if so, details thereof;
- (b) whether Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) a Government company, proposes to operate 220 megawatt small capacity nuclear power plants called Bharat small reactors for private companies and if so, details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which these small capacity reactors will be beneficial in fulfilling the power and other needs of the country; and
- (d) whether Government has allocated any budget for the construction of these small capacity reactors in the country and if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Government of India is exploring the feasibility of private participation in Nuclear Power Projects. Existing statutory provisions are being examined.
- (b) Setting up of 220 MW Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs) is envisaged within the existing legal framework, broadly envisaging provision of land cooling water and capital by the private entity, with design, quality assurance, & operation and maintenance by Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL).
- (c) The BSRs will enable private industries switch from captive power plants based on coal to clean nuclear power to meet their electricity needs. By making the switch, Indian industries like steel, aluminium, metals etc. can be export competitive by avoiding penalties like proposed carbon border taxes. It will also enable decarbonisation of the hard to abate sectors, thus helping India achieve its Net Zero by 2070 goal.
- (d) As per the business model under consideration, the expenditure for construction of the BSRs is to be incurred by the private partner.
