

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3712
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2024

ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY ASSESSMENTS FOR NEW NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

3712. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of environment and safety assessments proposed to be conducted for new nuclear power plants;
- (b) whether steps are being taken by the Government to address potential concerns and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the expected impact of these new nuclear plants on India's energy security, carbon reduction goals and the local economies in the areas are likely to be established?

ANSWER

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

- (a) In respect of new nuclear power plants, detailed environmental and safety assessments are carried out and requisite statutory clearances obtained. A comprehensive Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study in line with the Terms of Reference (TOR) approved by the MoEF&CC is carried out and the prescribed process followed to obtain Environmental Clearance for the project from MoEF&CC. In respect of safety, a detailed site evaluation is carried out and Siting Consent is obtained from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The project construction is taken up only after obtaining the statutory clearances.
- (b) The public concerns in new plants have been mainly on account of issues related to Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) and apprehensions about Safety of the nuclear power plants. In respect of R&R, NPCIL is working closely with the state governments to arrive at good R&R packages. A large public outreach on-going programme, based on a multipronged approach, is implemented by NPCIL to spread awareness about nuclear

power, address the apprehensions about safety and allay their concerns in a simple, understandable and credible manner.

- (c) Nuclear power has huge potential and can provide the country long term energy security. Nuclear power plants are clean and environment friendly, as they do not emit Green House Gases (GHGs) and have an important role in the country's energy transition to net zero by 2070.

Setting up of new nuclear power plants at a location, would create employment & business opportunities for the local people and result in economic growth in the region. Thus, the new nuclear power plants will contribute in all these three aspects.
