

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2294
ANSWERED ON 12/03/2025

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN NUCLEAR ENERGY SECTOR

2294. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government is proposing to lift the restrictions on private sector participation in nuclear energy and allow private investors in this field and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed potential challenges such as safety concerns, regulatory frameworks, technology-sharing and public apprehensions arising from private sector involvement in nuclear energy;
- (c) the details of measures being planned to address these challenges while ensuring compliance with international nuclear safety and non-proliferation norms; and
- (d) the manner in which the inclusion of private investors is expected to impact India's nuclear energy production capacity and its long-term energy goals?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Government has set policy directive to launch Nuclear Energy Mission in view of the country's energy transition efforts. This mission will focus on Research and Development of new reactors designs & technologies; as-well-as large scale deployment of existing/ established technology/ design. The same will necessitate participation of private investors and private sector, including manufacturing industries. For a rapid scale-up, capacity building will be needed and towards this goal, to facilitate an active partnership with Private Sector, amendments to Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act is being undertaken.
- (b)&(c) A Task Force has been constituted in Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) to look into the amendments required in the Atomic Energy Act. This Task Force has members from DAE, AERB, NPCIL, NITI Aayog, MoLJ and MEA. The Task Force is looking into various aspects like build, own, operation of NPPs by Private Sector, nuclear safety, security, safeguards, fuel procurement / fabrication, waste management, spent

fuel reprocessing, etc. In addition, a separate Task Force is also looking into Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLND Act) to address the concerns raised by private suppliers.

- (d) In FY 2024-25, as part of Budget Announcement, policy directive has been set to partner with the private sector for setting up Bharat Small Reactor (BSR), and in pursuance of the same, NPCIL has floated Request-for-Proposal to private industries to finance and build small-sized 220 MW-PHWR based NPPs as captive plants for electricity production. BSRs are proposed to be commissioned and operated by NPCIL, but set-up with private capital. This is majorly to target a wide array of industries viz. Minerals & Metals, Petrochemical etc., which will help in decarbonisation of Industry Sector. Further, with inclusion of private investment, it is expected that as the plan/roadmap for rapid scale-up of nuclear sector in the country is evolved at strategy level, it would send a strong policy signal to the industry (public & private) to participate and plan for capacity/ infrastructure expansion for nuclear related projects and assure them continuity of business, so that they can remain invested for the long-term. This is also expected to boost 'investor' confidence to make informed investment decisions in the nuclear and even enable fossil sector businesses to divest into nuclear business, in terms of not only financial investment but also re-train & redeploy experienced manpower from the fossil sector. Making Nuclear Power Projects eligible for Climate Finance will be a big boost, to make progress in this mission.
