

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 487
ANSWERED ON 23/07/2026

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN NUCLEAR ENERGY

487. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

- (a) the status of rules notified under the SHANTI Act, 2025 and details of private licences granted, including reactor type and capacity;
- (b) the mechanisms to monitor and mitigate construction delays and cost escalations in private nuclear projects;
- (c) the details of prescribed timelines for construction/commissioning and penalties for non-compliance by private operators;
- (d) the liability framework for accidents exceeding operator liability, including public financial exposure;
- (e) the details of funding arrangements by private operators, given the bar on foreign investment; and
- (f) the rationale for restricting nuclear-related information from RTI disclosure under the Act?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Rules under the SHANTI Act are currently in drafting stage and will be notified in accordance with due legislative processes, and the applications for licences from private parties will then be taken into consideration.
- (b)&(c) This does not fall under the framework of SHANTI Act, 2025.
- (d) The framework in respect of civil liability for nuclear damage for accidents have been provided in Sec 13 & 14 of the SHANTI Act, 2025 –
 - 1. The maximum amount of liability in respect of each nuclear incident shall be the rupee equivalent of three hundred million Special Drawing Rights or as specified by Central Government.
 - 2. The maximum amount of liability of an operator in respect of each nuclear incident for different categories of nuclear installation is provided in the table below:

Sl. No.	Categories of nuclear installation	Limits of operator's liability (INR) in crore
1	Reactors having thermal power above 3600 MW	3000
2	Reactors having thermal power above 1500 MW and up to 3600 MW	1500
3	Reactors having thermal power above 750 MW and up to 1500 MW	750
4	Reactors having thermal power above 50 MW and up to 750 MW	300
5	Reactors having thermal power up to 150 MW, fuel cycle facilities other than spent fuel reprocessing plants and transportation of nuclear materials	100

3. The Central Government shall be liable for nuclear damage in respect of a nuclear incident-
 - i) where the operator's liability exceeds the amount specified in the Second Schedule, to the extent such liability exceeds the liability of the operator
 - ii) where the nuclear incident has occurred in a nuclear installation owned by the Central Government
 - iii) where the nuclear incident has occurred on account of a grave natural disaster of an exceptional character or an act of armed conflict, hostility, civil war, insurrection or terrorism
 4. For the purpose of meeting its liability, the Central Government may establish Nuclear Liability Fund with levy charged from the tariff on the electricity sold to the consumers.
 5. The Central Government may take additional measures, where necessary, if the compensation to be awarded under this Act exceeds three hundred million Special Drawing Rights, including seeking funds under the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage signed at Vienna on the 27th day of October, 2010 to which the Republic of India is a signatory.
- (e) The private operators shall obtain an insurance policy or other financial security or combination of both before operation of nuclear installation, covering their liability. The operator should renew the insurance policy or other financial security before the expiry of the period of validity from time to time.

- (f) The SHANTI Act specifies that the information which are regarded as "restricted information" and disclosure of such information which are detrimental to national security and public interest are exempted from disclosure. These provisions are in alignment with the RTI Act. Further, SHANTI Act provides the Regulatory Board to ensure transparency by a planned public outreach and engagement with interested party on matter related to nuclear safety without disclosing restricted information.
