

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.468
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2013

AVAILABILITY OF PLUTONIUM FOR THE FBR

468. DR. CHANDAN MITRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) at Kalpakkam, which was scheduled to go critical in mid 2009, has not been fully commissioned till now, if so, the reasons thereof;
- (b) the alternative arrangements made by Government for ensuring regular and time bound availability of Plutonium for the FBR; and
- (c) the time by which the FBR is likely to be commissioned and generate electricity?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

- (a) Yes Sir, The originally approved date for criticality of 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR), under construction at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu, was September, 2010, which was later revised to September, 2014. The PFBR, being first of its kind in the country, encountered certain technological complexities during equipment manufacture. Materials, specifications and dimensions are unique and Indian industries found it challenging to achieve these tolerances and stringent specifications. Industries had to develop several machine tools and new procedures to meet the design specifications which required more time than envisaged.
- (b) Government has already allocated fuel for PFBR criticality in September, 2014 and has tied up fuel availability for future operation of PFBR.
- (c) The revised approved date of criticality is September, 2014 and commercial operation is envisaged by March, 2015.
