

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1399
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2012

NUCLEAR ENERGY A DEPENDABLE SOURCE OF ELECTRICITY

1399. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government considers atomic energy a dependable source of electricity, environmentally safe and commercially viable, in the background of scientific knowledge and practical experience available so far;
- (b) whether Government still consider the project proposed earlier by Homi Bhabha to utilize Thorium as fuel feasible and plan to develop reactors to make the idea commercially viable;
- (c) whether Government consider permitting foreign companies to establish nuclear reactors and Government paying full compensation in the event of an accident preferable to its own commercial nuclear plants; and
- (d) the share of nuclear energy in total energy requirement of India?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir
- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) There is no proposal to permit foreign companies to set up nuclear power plants in the country. The nuclear power plants with foreign technical cooperation are planned to be set up and operated by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) or its Joint Venture companies. The provisions of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 are applicable to all reactors both indigenous and those set up with foreign technical cooperation.
- (d) The share of nuclear energy in the total electricity generation in the country in the year 2011-12 was 3.7%. According to the Integrated Energy Policy, the share of nuclear energy to meet the projected requirements of electricity in 2031-32, should rise to about 12%.
