

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.624**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2012

**MANAGEMENT OF THE NUCLEAR WASTE**

624. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any concrete plan to take out, transport or handle the nuclear waste/spent fuel after the Kudankulam plant in Tamil Nadu becomes operational; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

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(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. Currently spent fuel from our operating unsafeguarded reactors are transported to our operating reprocessing facilities, located within the country. Consistent with this approach, spent fuel generated from the operation of the Kudankulam power plant after taking out from the reactor, is planned to be stored temporarily in storage pools which are water-filled concrete vaults with stainless steel lining, having the arrangement for storing spent fuel in racks. Such pools are designed, constructed and operated as per the guidelines prescribed by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

Each unit of Kudankulam plant has a spent fuel storage capacity inside the reactor containment to cater to 7 years of full power operation. In case of a necessity arising at a later stage, additional storage, away from the reactor (AFR), could also be constructed for further enhancing the temporary storage capacity after taking due regulatory clearances.

The spent fuel from Kudankulam Plant is to be transported from the power reactor site to the reprocessing facility for safeguarded fuels. This transportation will be in conformity with the regulation specified by AERB in "Safety code for the transport of radioactive materials –AERB/SC/TR-1" and international requirements as stipulated by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

As a policy, spent fuel from all nuclear power plants is to be reprocessed and the same is to be followed for the spent fuel of Kudankulam. The spent fuel from Kudankulam is planned to be reprocessed at a national facility, the location of which is to be finalised.