

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2814
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2014

ADVERSE IMPACT OF NUCLEAR REACTORS

2814. SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of reports about children being born with congenital disabilities and diseases like cancer, in the villages and the areas that are situated near nuclear reactors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has sought a report from competent authorities in the matter; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) These reports are not based on a scientific approach to conduct a study of the incidence of the reported health effects, and their correlation with the existence of nuclear facilities in the neighbourhood.
Epidemiological surveys for health assessment in respect of employees working in close proximity to radiation and their families at each of the operating nuclear power plants in India have been carried out by reputed local medical colleges in association with Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), Mumbai, a premier cancer research centre in the country with primary emphasis on incidence of cancer and congenital anomalies. These scientific studies have established that there has not been any rise in cancer morbidity, birth defects or any other ailments among the employees, who are working in close proximity of Radiation in Indian nuclear power plants, in comparison to the national average.
Studies have indicated that the prevalence of congenital disabilities among the children, who have undergone health checkup at Kaiga and Rajasthan, is 9.9 per 1000 live births and 3.0 per 1000 live births, respectively. These are substantially lower than the national prevalence of congenital disabilities, which is 30 per 1000 live births.
Insofar as incidence of cancer is concerned, a limited survey conducted recently by an NGO in the villages near Kalpakkam has also indicated that the cancer prevalence in these villages is comparable to that observed in other parts of the country.

(c)&(d) Do not arise in view of the position explained above.
