

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3997
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2014

STUDY ON IMPACT OF RADIATION

3997. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI OM BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the report of Study Group constituted by the Planning Commission to study causes of people being afflicted with physical deformities and their prevention in East Singhbhum District's Jaduguda area and some villages in Garhwa District of Jharkhand, including in other areas of the Atomic Plants;
- (b) the details of the action taken as a result of the adverse impact of radiation released by the Atomic Plants;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to conduct public awareness programme for the local community about nuclear and radiation safety; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No, Sir. Planning Commission has not constituted any study group to study the causes of people being afflicted with physical deformities and their prevention in East Singhbhum District's Jaduguda area and some villages in Garhwa District of Jharkhand; including in other areas of the Atomic Plants.
- (b) During the operation of nuclear installations, the release to the environment is restricted well within the limits prescribed by the regulatory body. In addition, the environmental monitoring carried out around nuclear installations including power plants clearly indicates that the doses received by the general public due to the operation of the plant is insignificant as compared to that received from natural sources and also are well within the limits prescribed by Atomic

Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). Several epidemiological studies conducted world over including the High background Radiation Areas (HBRAs) of India and China have failed to detect radiation risks at even higher levels chronic exposures, due to natural radiations. Based on these results, International bodies such as the United Nations Scientific Committee on Atomic Radiations (UNSCEAR) have opined that cancer risks on populations exposed to low levels of radiations such as those due to nuclear plants will not be detectable. In the light of these, the populations including children, living near our NPPs are extremely unlikely to have any additional risk of diseases, such as congenital disabilities and cancer, beyond that prevalent in general population.

- (c)&(d) Public awareness programmes have been pursued by the Government and concerned PSUs since long. Multipronged approach to address the apprehensions/concerns of the people is adopted, which includes organising programmes in local schools and colleges, visual and print media campaigns and citizens' visit to various facilities etc.
