

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 165
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.02.2016

FORMULATION OF NEW NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

165. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has recently formulated a nuclear power programme to provide long-term energy security to the country based on the indigenous nuclear fuel resources; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which it stands at present?

ANSWER

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

(a)&(b) From the inception, India has been following the sequential three-stage nuclear power programme based on optimum utilisation of the country's nuclear resources. The programme comprises:

- Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) fuelled by natural uranium in the first stage,
- Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) based on Uranium and Plutonium in the second stage, and
- Thorium based reactors in the third stage.

The first stage of PHWRs has achieved commercial maturity. There are 18 PHWRs in operation and 4 PHWRs are under construction with more reactors planned. The reactor and associated fuel cycle technologies of the second stage i.e. FBRs, have been developed. The first commercial reactor of the second stage, the 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is under advanced stage of commissioning. The third stage systems are under development.
