

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2721**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.08.2015

**APPREHENSIONS ABOUT NUCLEAR SAFETY**

2721. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the apprehensions about nuclear safety in India, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether experts have opined that India is having untested reactor designs, used in atomic power plants, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to protect people and to have tested equipments in the plants?

**ANSWER**

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

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- (a) Yes, Sir. There are apprehensions in some sections of the public about safety of the nuclear power plants and loss of traditional means of livelihood like fishing and agriculture. These are being addressed through ongoing public outreach programmes by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).
- (b) No, Sir. However, such opinions have been expressed in the press by some individuals, without any scientific basis.
- (c) Safety is accorded utmost attention in all phases of nuclear power plants from siting, design, construction, commissioning and operation. The reactors are provided with multi-layer safety provisions and series of physical barriers to prevent the release of radioactivity beyond acceptable limits and thereby protect the personnel, public, and environment. The safety of the nuclear power reactors to be set up in the country is extensively reviewed at every stage by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), and the reactors are set up and operated strictly in accordance with its stage-wise clearances. The safety standards set by AERB are in line with international standards.

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