

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.329**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2015

**NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS DIED MYSTERIOUSLY**

329. SHRI HARIVANSH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of nuclear scientists who died under mysterious circumstances during last five years;
- (b) the details of the safety measures provided to the scientists to protect them from nuclear radiation; and
- (c) the details of Government's plan to tackle with any untoward situations caused in the nuclear plants?

**ANSWER**

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

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- (a) The number of nuclear scientists who died in unnatural circumstances mainly relating to road accidents and suicides for the period from 01.01.2010 to 15.07.2015 are 12.
- (b) Safety of occupational workers in nuclear facilities is considered as one of the top priorities during the design, construction and operation of nuclear facilities. The plants are designed with engineered safety features and administrative controls to ensure that the persons working in the plant are radiologically protected. Safety standards, stipulated by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), are meticulously followed as per national and international standards. Regular monitoring of ambient radiation levels, air activity and contamination levels are carried out under the supervision of Radiological Safety Officer (RSO) appointed by AERB. Necessary protective equipments are provided to plant personnel to ensure radiological safety. Personnel dosimetry programme is in place to ensure that radiological exposure are much below the prescribed limits.
- (c) Nuclear Facilities in India are designed, constructed, commissioned and operated in conformity with relevant nuclear safety requirements. These requirements ensure an adequate margin of safety so that nuclear facilities can be operated without undue radiological risks to the plant personnel and members of the public. Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) plans are developed as a measure of abundant caution in accordance with the national and international laws and regulations and to deal with effective management of any eventuality. The efficacy of EPR is tested by conducting emergency exercises regularly. Government of India has enacted Disaster Management Act for prevention and mitigation of all disasters including Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies.