

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.11.2012
NUCLEAR REGULATORY PROCESS

3. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether nuclear regulatory process in the country has come under severe criticism from the Government auditor and activities in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to approach the global atomic watchdog IAEA to review its nuclear regulatory process;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;
- (e) the details of the status of commissioning of first 1000 MW unit of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project; and
- (f) the details of the expenditure so far incurred in the said unit?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

- (a)&(b) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India issued its report on the performance audit of the activities of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), wherein some observations and recommendations have been made. The report of CAG tabled in the Parliament has not made any allegation of impropriety on AERB; in fact it notes compliance with the procedures in respect of regulation of nuclear power plants and nuclear fuel cycle facilities. It has made recommendations for strengthening of regulatory control of radiation facilities. Currently, PAC is seized of the report and the point-wise response against each recommendation in CAG report has been submitted to PAC.
- (c)&(d) Yes Sir. AERB has committed to get its regulatory process peer reviewed by the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission of IAEA. As a first step, AERB decided to assess the readiness of AERB for IRRS mission by undergoing the detailed internal review of all the requirements of IRRS. In this regard, a committee was constituted in AERB with several working groups to meticulously review the existing system vis-à-vis the IAEA regulatory safety standards.
- (e) Currently, fuel loading is completed in KKNPP-1 and preparation to first approach of criticality has reached its advanced stage. This reactor would attain criticality (start of the fission reaction for the first time) after AERB grants stage wise clearances by December 2012.
- (f) Total expenditure incurred for KKNPP 1 & 2 upto October 2012 is ₹ 15,161 crore.
