

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.11.2012
DELAY IN NUCLEAR SAFETY POLICY

5. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has been pointed out by Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the inordinate delay in preparing the nuclear safety policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons for such delay;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the AERB was given directions long before twice *vide* two panels in the year 1987 and 1997 for preparation of suitable policy expeditiously;
- (d) the reasons for the delay; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government for its early preparation?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Comptroller and Auditor General of India published its report on the performance audit of the activities of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), wherein an observation has been made on the delay in preparation of the safety policy.
In accordance with the Presidential orders dated 15 November 1983, constituting the AERB, the functions of AERB includes, as per clause 2(i), development of safety policies in both radiation and industrial safety areas, and further, as per clause 2(vi), evolving major safety policies based on safety criteria, recommended by IAEA and other international bodies, adopted to suit Indian conditions. Accordingly, the safety policies concerning the activities regulated by AERB are enshrined in the high level documents of AERB, namely the Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004, the mission statement and the various 'Codes' of AERB. These documents include the policies, principles and/or safety objectives that apply to the relevant activity/field and the specific regulatory requirements that are to be followed for fulfilling the same.

The above principles and objectives form the broader policy of AERB for regulation of nuclear and radiation safety in the country. AERB has so far not felt the need for a single and separate 'Safety Policy' document, as these are well defined in the existing documents as explained above.

Nevertheless AERB has agreed to the suggestion of CAG, to the extent of consolidating the existing policy objectives and higher level principles as brought out in various codes and other document into a separate 'Safety Policy' document.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above
- (e) Indicated in (b) above.