

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 961
ANSWERED ON 13/02/2025

SETTING UP OF BHARAT SMALL REACTORS

961. SHRI MILIND MURLI DEORA

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has finalized plans for setting up Bharat Small Reactors based on Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor technology;
- (b) the measures being taken to encourage private sector participation in establishment of captive nuclear power plants using Pressurized Heavy Water technology;
- (c) the measures planned to ensure safety and regulatory compliance for such small reactors; and
- (d) whether Government has conducted any study on the potential carbon credits that our country is expected to earn from the development of Bharat Small Reactors technology?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Yes. The Government has accorded approval for setting up Bharat Small Reactors (BSR) an upgraded version of the proven 220 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) with private capital investment in an approved business model to address the large decarbonisation requirement of hard to abate industries.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting proposals from industries in line with the approved business model has been published in December 2024.

(c) & (d) Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has been constituted by a statutory order (S.O. 4772) to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions envisaged under Section 16, 17 and 23 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962. The regulatory framework of AERB ensures compliance by DAE and non-DAE installations of safety codes and standards during all stages through periodic regulatory oversight.

All types / designs of Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) in India are designed, constructed, commissioned & operated complying with the regulatory requirements of AERB. The same regulatory framework can be utilised for Bharat Small Reactors as well.
