

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-965
ANSWERED ON 13/02/2025

KAIGA NUCLEAR PLANT

965. SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government is aware that MEIL has secured a deal to construct two 700 MW nuclear power units at the Kaiga Nuclear Plant in Karnataka and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the timeline and estimated cost for the construction and commissioning of these units;
- (c) the anticipated impact of these units on Karnataka's energy capacity and energy security;
- (d) the steps being taken to ensure timely execution and adherence to safety standards; and
- (e) whether the project includes provisions for local employment and the involvement of Karnataka-based industries and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes. M/s. Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) had emerged as the L-1 bidder in the tender floated for Nuclear Island Mega EPC Package of Unit-5&6 (Kaiga 5&6- 2 X 700 MW) at Kaiga, Karnataka. Further actions leading to award of work are in progress.
- (b) The sanctioned cost of Kaiga 5&6 is Rs.21000 crore and its expected completion is by 2030-31.
- (c) On successful completion of Kaiga 5&6, a clean base load energy capacity of 1400 MW will be added to the installed capacity in the state. As per the extant norms of the Ministry of Power, Karnataka will have a firm share of 700 MW and a share from the 210 MW unallocated quota from this project.

- (d) Timely execution of the project is ensured by preparing milestone schedules and closely monitoring of the same. Frequent meetings are conducted with all the stake holders to monitor the progress and carry out mid course correction as required to ensure timely completion of the project.

Highest priority is accorded to safety in all aspects of nuclear power viz. siting, design, construction, commissioning, and operation and thus a strong safety culture prevails. To ensure adherence to highest safety standards, there is a robust internal review mechanism, in place. In addition, periodic reviews are also carried by the regulatory authority, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

- (e) Preference to suitable local youth is a part of engagement provisions of various contracts awarded at the site. Although there are no specific provisions for Karnataka based industries, considering the location of the project, local industries are expected to get good business opportunities.
