

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 7
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026

IMPLICATIONS OF SHANTI ACT

7. SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

- (a) how the provisions of SHANTI Act, that enable private participation in India's civil nuclear sector, potentially recalibrate the country's nuclear energy landscape and what implications might this have for India's energy security and its non-proliferation commitments; and
- (b) whether the SHANTI Act establishes the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) as an independent safety regulator and if so, its potential strengths and manner in which it might impact the regulatory framework governing India's nuclear industry?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The SHANTI Act has been enacted for the promotion and development of nuclear energy and ionising radiation for nuclear power generation, application in healthcare, food, water, agriculture, industry, research, environment, innovation in nuclear science and technology, and for robust regulatory framework for its safe and secure utilisation.

Nuclear Energy can support and provide stable, reliable, and round-the-clock power supply for large-scale data-driven research and data centres using Artificial Intelligence, high-performance computing, quantum technologies, indigenous semiconductor fabrication. Nuclear energy also has vast applications healthcare, food, water, agriculture, industry, research, environment and its utilisation in Artificial Intelligence in supporting future-ready applications including advanced materials research, precision manufacturing, space technologies and industrial automation, and is crucial in fulfilling India's developmental aspirations and achieving sustainable development goals.

The key provisions of SHANTI Act provide for the implementation of security and safeguards on the nuclear material and nuclear facilities which includes continuous monitoring, accounting and surveillance.

(b) India already has a robust system of implementation of Nuclear Safety in Nuclear Power Plants. The responsibility for ensuring the safety of civilian nuclear facilities in India lies solely with the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). In order to provide statutory status to AERB, the SHANTI Act establish AERB as a regulatory body through the Act for carrying out safety oversight function. This would strengthen the legal framework for regulation of nuclear and radiation safety in the country and continue to strive highest standards of safety based on scientific approach, operating experience and best international practices. AERB inspectors are authorized to conduct regular inspections of licensed facilities to verify compliance. In cases where non-compliance is identified, AERB will provide corrective recommendations and technical guidance. In extreme situations of non-compliance, AERB holds the authority to suspend or revoke the operating license.
