

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 92**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18/07/2018

**INDIA BASED NEUTRINO OBSERVATORY**

92. ADV. JOICE GEORGE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- a) The current status of the India based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project;
- b) whether any progress has been made in the setting up of the said project and if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether the Government has noticed that blasting under the said project will last for years to remove a big quantity of rock and if so, the details thereof;
- d) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the impact of INO construction to nearby dams and hydel power projects and if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- e) whether there is any possibility of seismic incidents due to INO project in the region and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

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- (a)&(b) Environmental clearance for the project has been obtained. Application for Wildlife Clearance and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) has been submitted. An 85 ton prototype mini-ICAL detector has been built and is working at IICHEP premises in Madurai.
- (c) The approximately 2 km long tunnel and the laboratory caverns is required to be made using controlled blasting and take about 3 years to complete. The vibrations will not be above the acceptable limits of less than 1mm/sec beyond about 200m distance from the blast zone. The total amount of excavated rock is about 230,000 cubic metres. This is comparable to that removed from railway or road tunnels of similar length.
- (d) Yes, Sir. The vibrations reduce to negligible levels beyond a few hundred metres. Dams such as Vaigai and Mullaiperiyar which are about 30 km away will not be affected. In fact, these vibrations will not even be felt in the nearby villages which are a few kms. away.
- (e) There is no possibility of seismic events triggered by work at the INO site. However, seismic monitoring has to be carried out during construction as an abundant measure of caution.

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