

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 941**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/02/2023

**Small Modular Reactors**

941. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to focus on augmenting the use of Small Modular Reactors(SMRs), which are smaller and cost-effective;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is also planning to invite private companies to set up SMRs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

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(a & b) There is a thrust world over for a strategy to use nuclear power that could reduce reliance on fossil fuels over the coming years. Nuclear power is considered as one of the most promising clean energy options for power generation. Deploying Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) across the country especially in locations not suitable for large nuclear plants, can produce large amount of low-carbon electricity. In order to move away from fossil fuel consumption, SMRs could be installed and operated for repurposing the aging fossil fuel based power plants.

However, nuclear power plants are to be installed and operated in line with stringent regulatory requirements to contain radiation and to avoid exposure to public in all circumstances. Evaluation of various design options for SMR for safety requirements, commercial viability, sustainable and scalable fuel supply chain etc, and subsequent safe processing or disposal of spent fuel will need to be undertaken.

(c & d) No such decision has been taken as at present.

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