

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION- 414
ANSWERED ON 27/11/2024

NUCLEAR SAFETY REGULATORY AUTHORITY BILL, 2011

414. SHRI RAO RAJENDRA SINGH

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

- a) whether the Government has made progress on framing the Nuclear Safety and Regulation Bill, 2011 after incorporating several rounds of recommendations from the respective Standing Committee, if so, whether there is any timeline within which it seeks to achieve the same and if not, the reasons therefor;
- b) whether the Government has a well-defined nuclear safety radiation policy framework as envisaged by the AERB constitution of 1983, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- c) whether the Government has taken into account the recommendations of the CAG Report which talked about several discrepancies present in the operation of nuclear power plants, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- d) whether the Government has any timeline within which work on the Unit 7&8 of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (Rawatbhata) will be finished 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) A Bill titled "The Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority (NSRA) Bill, 2011" was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7 September 2011. However, the Bill along with its official amendments could not be taken up for consideration by the 15th Lok Sabha due to its dissolution. Subsequently, a Note for Cabinet on NSRA Bill, 2015 which is essentially the NSRA Bill, 2011 along with official amendments had been submitted to Cabinet Secretariat for Cabinet approval after fresh inter-ministerial consultations. However, the Committee of Secretaries advised the Department to re-examine the Bill. The Department, thus, constituted a Committee for re-examination and withdrew the Cabinet Note seeking approval for introduction of NSRA Bill, 2015.

Since the new NSRA Bill is not even in its preliminary shape and due to multiple formalities and inter-ministerial consultations involved in a legislation, the timeline when it would be re-introduced in Parliament cannot be specified.

- (b) Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) is mandated to frame safety policies, lay down safety standards & requirements, grant consent for all stages and monitor & enforce provisions under the Act and the Rules thereof, in nuclear installations and to enforce nuclear security aspects. As envisaged in the constitution order in 1983 of AERB, the elements of nuclear and radiation safety polices were enshrined in various Safety Codes and Standards issued by the AERB. These were consolidated and issued as a separate policy document called "Policies Governing Regulation of Nuclear and Radiation Safety" in July 2014 and is available on AERB's website.
- (c) With respect to the recommendations of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India pertaining to compliance of high-level safety committee recommendations regarding operation of Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs), the action taken report was submitted to CAG by AERB. These recommendations are targeted for enchaining safety and performance of operating NPPs. These are in addition to the essential regulatory requirements and licensing conditions and do not compromise safety. The progress of compliance to these recommendations is closely monitored by AERB.
- (d) Unit-7 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Units 7&8 (2 x 700 MW) has already achieved its first criticality on September 19, 2024 and is expected to be completed by January, 2025. Unit-8 is expected to be completed by January, 2026.
