

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.931
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.11.2010

DELAY IN WORKING OF FBR

931. SHRI MANGALA KISAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's first Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) for commercial nuclear energy generation is likely to be delayed;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and
- (c) the time by which this would be made operational?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI V NARAYANASAMY):

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The first commercial Fast Breeder Reactor being built in India is an advanced technology reactor built with indigenous resources. The materials, specifications and the dimensions of equipment are unique and several developments were taken up concurrently with project implementation. Indian industries found it challenging to achieve the tolerances and the stringent specifications. Industries had to develop several new machine tools and develop new procedures to meet the design specifications. Development of new machine tools and procedures required more time than envisaged.
- (c) The reactor will be operational in year 2013.

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.932
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.11.2010

AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE FOR NUCLEAR REACTORS

932. SHRIMATI GUNDUSUDHARANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an agreement with France has been entered into for setting up of two 1650 MW reactors recently;
- (b) whether any time-frame has been fixed for commissioning of the above projects; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI V NARAYANASAMY):

- (a)to(c) Yes Sir. An Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between India & France was signed on 30th September, 2008. IGA, inter-alia provided for construction of six 1650MW reactors. Pursuant to that, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up of 6 x 1650 MW Light Water Reactors (LWRs) in a phased manner at Jaitapur in Maharashtra has been entered into between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and AREVA, France on 4th February, 2009. The negotiations on techno-commercial offer are in final stage. The work on first set of twin reactor is expected to commence in the year 2012 with a completion period of the about six years.

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.933
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.11.2010

COMMISSIONING OF REACTOR IN KUDANKULAM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

933. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the scheduled commissioning of the first reactor in the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant has been delayed to March, 2011;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay;
- (c) whether this is likely to affect the scheduled commissioning of the second reactor;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to remedy the impact of this delay?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI V NARAYANASAMY):

- (a) The construction activities of Unit-1 of Kudankulam have been completed. This unit is under advance stage of commissioning. Commissioning of electrical, water system & other auxiliary systems have been completed. Commissioning of reactor is in hand. The criticality procedure starting with fuel loading & subsequent testing of power operation are planned from December 2010 onwards.
- (b) The delay in the project schedule has been on account of delay in sequential supply of equipment / components from Russian Federation.
- (c) Yes sir.
- (d) The second reactor (Unit-2) will be commissioned after a gap of 8-10 months after commissioning of first reactor (Unit-1).
- (e) The matter regarding supplies of equipment has been taken up with Russian Federation at the highest levels of Governments. There has consequently been an improvement in the supplies.

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.934
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.11.2010

REDUCING THE PLF OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

934. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Plant Load Factor (PLF) of Nuclear Power Plants has come down to 60 per cent during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken or being taken by Government to meet the fuel shortage?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI V NARAYANASAMY):

- (a)&(b) No, Sir. The Plant Load Factor (PLF) of nuclear power plants has gone up from 50% in the year 2008-09 to 61% in the year 2009-10 and further improved to 64% in the period April – October of the current year. The increase has been possible with improvement in domestic fuel supply and import of fuel for reactors under safeguards.
- (c) The Government is making efforts to augment domestic fuel supplies by opening of new mines and processing facilities.
