

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*42**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.11.2019

**SPENT FUEL STORAGE FACILITY**

\*42. SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S.:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of the proposed Away From Reactor (AFR) Spent Fuel Storage facility in the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP);
- (b) the quantity of spent fuel proposed to be stored in the facility;
- (c) the safeguards and containment standards of the said facility; and
- (d) the details of the proposals for the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for disposal of radioactive waste?

**ANSWER**

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

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(a)to(d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

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Government of India  
Department of Atomic Energy

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*42 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.11.2019 BY SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S. REGARDING SPENT FUEL STORAGE FACILITY.

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- (a) The design of the Away From Reactor (AFR) spent fuel storage facility for Kudankulam Units 1&2 has been completed and the process of obtaining environmental clearance from the MoEF&CC is underway.
- (b) The AFR is designed for storing spent fuel discharged by two reactors (KKNPP 1&2) over a period of 40 years. However, the actual storage at any given time would depend on the amount of fuel discharged from the reactors and drawn from the AFR for reprocessing.
- (c) The AFR facility is designed with a comprehensive approach to safety to withstand extreme natural events like earthquakes and tsunamis with provisions of large operational safety margins for safe, sound and reliable performance. It is designed to ensure that there would be no adverse impact on plant personnel, general public or the environment.
- (d) India is pursuing a closed fuel cycle, where the quantity of radioactive waste generated is very less. Further technologies for separation, partitioning and burning of waste are being developed in the country, which will further bring down the quantity of radioactive waste. Considering the small quantity of radioactive waste, there is no need for Deep Geological Repository in near future.

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