

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:525
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000
ATOMIC ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD
ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the main functions of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board(AERB);
- (b) whether the Government proposes to keep the country's nuclear weapons programme out of the jurisdiction of AERB;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether a separate panel has been set up to regulate the country's nuclear weapons programme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was constituted in 1983 to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions envisaged under Atomic Energy Act, 1962. The Board's main functions, inter-alia, includes laying down safety standards, framing rules and regulations, review of operational experience in the light of radiological and other safety criteria and promoting research and development efforts.

(b) to (e) With a view to ensuring safety in strategic activities, it has been decided that, similar to mechanisms adopted in other Nuclear Weapon States (NWS), regulatory and safety functions with respect to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and its facilities, hitherto exercised by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) will now be exercised through the Internal Safety Committee Structure that has been constituted by the Director, BARC. While carrying out the above functions, BARC will, inter-alia, ensure compliance with the principles of good safety management as given in the relevant Safety Codes, Guides, Standards, etc. developed by AERB and the acceptable limits of radiation exposure to members of the public prescribed by AERB.