



# Union Govt brought Nuclear programme to North India: Dr Jitendra Singh

Posted On: 04 MAR 2017 5:54PM by PIB Delhi

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh has said that in the recent years the Union Government has brought the country's nuclear programme to North India, whereas it was hitherto confined mostly to the southern and western parts of the country or to some extent in the central parts.

During his visit to the Central Regional Headquarter of the "Atomic Minerals Directorate (AMD) for Exploration and Research" in Nagpur yesterday, Dr Jitendra Singh said, during the last two years, a nuclear installation has been established in Gorakhpur, Haryana which, when functional after two to three years, will be able to produce cost-effective energy at the rate of around Rs. 6 per unit. Similarly, he said, in a new initiative undertaken last year a "Hall of Nuclear Power" was set up at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi with the idea that since the headquarters of Department of Atomic Energy were in Mumbai and most of the activity confined to western and southern parts, the people living in the National Capital should be exposed to the enormous new initiatives taken by the present government in the expansion of India's nuclear programme.

The nuclear programme started by its founding father, Dr Homi Bhabha, primarily for peaceful purposes, said Dr Jitendra Singh, has found its true vindication during the present Government and the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi takes it upon himself as a priority agenda to engage in discussions and finalize agreements during each of his visits abroad, which has given a big boost to India's nuclear programme and also lifted the morale of the Indian nuclear scientists. Not only this, he added, in a path-breaking decision the Union Cabinet recently also passed a proposal for PSUs to enter into partnership with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) for setting up joint-venture nuclear plants. This, he said, is bound to give a push forward to future endeavours, with the PSU from another sector providing financial resources and NPCIL providing technical know-how to achieve the nation's common goal.

Director of AMD, Dr L.K. Nanda made a PowerPoint presentation in which he provided a resume of the different regions and States, including Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Meghalaya, where exploration activity to find new reserves of Uranium was underway. Dr Jitendra Singh congratulated the nuclear scientists and engineers working in AMD and said that India today has a considerable Uranium reserve which is intended to increase manifold in the years to come. He said, the government is keen to encourage activities for exploration of Uranium reserves in those parts and regions where such activity has so far not been taken up.

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(Release ID: 1483623) Visitor Counter : 57

