

## SAY NO TO NUCLEAR POWER!

**Nuclear power is not the answer to energy shortage!**

**Nuclear power is not the answer to global warming!**

**Nuclear power is dirty and dangerous!!**

**Join the campaign against nuclear energy to save our future generations from disease and death!!!**

A 2000 MW nuclear power plant is being set up near Jaitapur port in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra, with the plan being to expand it to 8000 MW eventually. Land acquisition notices have already been issued to the villagers.

The government of India has begun embracing nuclear power in a big way. According to the Prime Minister, the foremost reason for going ahead with the Indo-US nuclear deal is that *it could enable the country to generate 40,000 MW of nuclear power by 2020, from 3700 MW at present*. Proclaiming the need for ushering in a 'nuclear renaissance', the Prime Minister has stated that to meet India's growth needs, the country needs huge amounts of energy; since the proven reserves of coal, oil, gas and hydropower were limited, India's energy needs could be met through nuclear power - which was affordable "*not only in terms of its financial cost but also in terms of the cost to our environment.*"

From India to the US, politicians and intellectuals are blithely lying about nuclear energy. They believe that if you lie frequently and with conviction, people will believe you.

### NUCLEAR ENERGY IS DEATHLY

Nuclear energy is generated in a nuclear reactor when nuclear fuel (uranium 235) kept in the reactor core is split up, releasing huge amounts of heat. This heat is used to produce steam, which in turn is used to drive a turbine to generate electricity.

During this fission process, more than 200 types of highly radioactive elements are created, which did not exist till the uranium atom was fissioned by man. The resulting uranium fuel in the reactor core is intensely radioactive: a 1000 MW nuclear power plant contains an amount of long-lived radiation equivalent to that released by 1000 Hiroshima bombs!

Many of these radioactive elements will continue to emit radiation for thousands of years. Impact of this radiation on the human body is deathly. It mutates the genes in the cells, causing cancer; it also mutates the reproductive genes, causing all kinds of diseases and birth deformities in future generations.

What if an accident in the nuclear reactor releases these deadly radioactive elements into the environment? It happened in Chernobyl, in northern Ukraine.

**Chernobyl:** On April 26, 1986, Unit Four of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded. Almost all the deadly radioactive fission products in the reactor core were spewed into the environment. Its consequences have been horrendous. ● More than 100,000 square miles around Chernobyl – an area slightly less than the size of Maharashtra – is heavily contaminated, and will remain so for thousands of years. Tens of thousands have died from radiation induced diseases. The seven million still alive and living in this region know that they are forever contaminated, that they could develop cancer anytime, that their children and grand children and great grand children could be born with severe birth defects. ● Radiation released into the atmosphere has contaminated almost all countries in the Northern Hemisphere. Food in many parts of Europe will continue to be radioactive for hundreds of years. Sharp rise in cancer has been recorded in countries as far away as Sweden and France.

Chernobyl can happen again. And so, **many countries in Western Europe have stopped building nuclear power plants**. Tragically, many other countries, including China, East Asia and India, are continuing to set up new plants. There are 438 nuclear power plants located in 33 countries around the world. Sooner or later, a similar accidental meltdown is bound to happen in one of them. Indeed, there have been numerous accidents after Chernobyl with potentially disastrous consequences, like the one at Paks nuclear plant in Hungary in 2003: it's only sheer fortune that another Chernobyl has not happened. India's nuclear power plants are amongst the most rickety in the world! While the government of India maintains complete silence on accidents at its nuclear power plants, according to experts at least 300 accidents of serious nature have so far taken place, causing radiation leaks and physical damages to workers and nearby residents!! Some of these, like the accident at Narora in UP in 1993, nearly caused a Chernobyl like meltdown.

Even if the nuclear power plants are operating normally, at each stage of the huge complex process involved in generating electricity from Uranium, called the nuclear fuel cycle, enormous amount of radiation routinely leaks into the atmosphere. Miners in the uranium mines are exposed to high levels of radiation; a very large number of them die of cancer. The thousands of tons of radioactive waste from the ore is left in the open near the mines, to pollute the air, soil and water, affecting millions living near the mines. At the nuclear power plant, highly radioactive gases are regularly released into the atmosphere, and the extremely radioactive cooling water is routinely released into nearby rivers, lakes and seas. Thus, even without an accident, the deadly concoction of radioactive elements created in the fission reaction find their way into the atmosphere and ultimately into the food chain and the human body!

An even more monstrous problem is the problem of waste disposal. Each 1000 MW nuclear power plant generates 30 tons of extremely potent radioactive waste annually. there is no way known to safely dispose this deadly material, which remains radioactive for tens of thousands of years. At present this waste is stored near the reactors in huge cooling pools. Were an accident to happen in one of these fuel pools, it would make Chernobyl look benign!

These are the reasons for the massive public opposition to nuclear power in the US. **No new nuclear power plants have been set up in the US since 1973.**

Yet the Indian government is constructing its biggest nuclear power plant at Jaitapur. **Were a serious accident to happen there, in the minimum the entire Western Maharashtra, including Pune, would be contaminated! Are we going to allow this?**

### **IS NUCLEAR ENERGY CHEAP ?**

Not just the Prime Minister of India, but also President Bush and the global nuclear industry claim that nuclear power is cheap. All of them are lying!

Even on paper, nuclear energy is twice as costly as electricity from coal and gas. Its actual cost is much more than this. Because governments all over the world enormously subsidise it, to the tune of hundreds of crores of rupees. These subsidies include: most research costs, costs associated with transporting and storing the radioactive waste, security against terrorist attacks, the huge costs of decommissioning the reactors once their operating life ends. All these are not included while calculating cost of nuclear power. Further, all liabilities in case of major accidents too are assumed by governments. And finally, the health costs associated with the radiation emitted routinely at each stage of the nuclear cycle are not even taken into consideration, they are not even admitted by governments.

### **IS NUCLEAR POWER CARBON EMISSION FREE?**

While it is true that no CO<sub>2</sub> is released in the nuclear reactor, the entire nuclear cycle from uranium mining to construction of the reactor to waste storage produces an enormous amount of greenhouse gases. And if the uranium is low grade, as most uranium ores are, then the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted goes up even much more!

### **ALTERNATIVE ENERGY**

The argument that because there are limited reserves of coal and gas, so we need to go in for nuclear power in a big way, is yet another lie, because we have enormous reserves of both of these. Further, India has a huge potential of producing energy from alternate sources of energy like wind, hydro, solar, tidal, wave, biomass; these also cause little global warming. The entire future target set by the government of India for nuclear energy of 40,000 MW, and much more than this, can easily be produced from these renewable energy sources. The potential of producing energy from wind power is estimated at 45,000 MW, from small hydro power projects at 10,000 MW, from tidal power at 15,000 MW. The estimated potential of meeting rural energy needs through biogas plants and urban electricity needs through production of electricity from wastes is more than 20,000 MW. And then, the total potential of saving energy through energy conservation is estimated to be nearly 25,000 MW in the country.

There is thus not the slightest justification, for building nuclear power plants. By doing so, we are threatening the very existence of life on earth.

### **THE REAL REASON FOR INDIA'S NUCLEAR PUSH**

Why then are India's rulers indulging in this madness of constructing nuclear power plants? The real reason: to provide US corporations and big Indian corporations yet another opportunity to make huge profits. Ever since 1991, when India began the globalization of the Indian economy, India's political parties and big business houses, who are the real rulers of the country, have divorced themselves from the people of the country. For their narrow interests of profit accumulation, they have mortgaged the country's economy to the US-led imperialist powers and their giant corporations.

Despite enormous public opposition, the Bush administration is once again attempting to promote the construction of new power plants. The 2005 US energy bill provides \$13 billion in subsidies for nuclear power. And so their collaborator Manmohan Singh government has also decided to promote nuclear energy in India. The PM has already called for private investment in Indian nuclear power generation. This will enable US nuclear plant suppliers like Westinghouse and General Electric to hawk their nuclear reactors to India. Westinghouse has received only one order in the past 25 years! According to newspaper reports, the opening up of this sector in India is likely to provide these corporations a \$100 billion business opportunity. Simultaneously, India's big business houses, including the Tatas and Reliance, have also begun preparations for setting up nuclear power plants in the country. India's rulers have sold their souls to the devil for a price that would have shamed Faust!

## **Friends,**

Let us ask you a simple question. Are you going to remain quiet if a nuclear power plant was going to be set up near your house? No, isn't it. Then why at Jaitapur? The people living there are also human beings, just like us. Why should they suffer cancer, and their children terrible disease and painful deaths, just to light up our homes?

People of Pune, let us join the campaign launched by the people of Jaitapur against nuclear power. Young and old, students and teachers, working people, all of us must join this campaign to demand a complete stop to the construction of all new nuclear power plants in India, which is actually a part of a much bigger global campaign for a nuclear free world.

We must demand of the government of India:

- 1. Stop the construction of new nuclear power plants.**
- 2. Invest massively in energy saving and development of renewable technologies.**

We invite you to join us for the following programs:

### **Seminar**

#### **‘Nuclear Energy: Key to Abundant Energy or Invitation to Disaster?’**

**Main Speaker: Praful Bidwai, Senior Journalist and Nuclear Affairs Analyst, Delhi.**

**Date: Saturday, Sept. 29      Time: 5.30 – 7.30 pm**

**Venue: Dnyaneshwar Hall, Marathawada Mitra Mandal, Deccan Gymkhana, Pune.**

### **Protest March against Nuclear Power Plants:**

**Date: Sunday, Sept. 30      Time: 5.00 pm**

**Route: From Alka Talkies (Deccan Gymkhana) via Laxmi Road to Shaniwarwada.**

---

## **LOKAYAT**

### **Contact Address:**

Lokayat, Lenovo Building,  
opp. Syndicate Bank, Law College Road,  
Near Nal Stop, Pune

### **Contact Phone and E-mail:**

Alka Joshi 94223 19129  
Ajit Penter 94235 86330  
Rishikesh 94235 07864  
[neerajj61@gmail.com](mailto:neerajj61@gmail.com)