

Q&A for the webinar on 10 January 2026.

Please ask Dr Grover to display the power reactor limits once again

Ans: A file is attached. It gives the complete text of the SHANTI Act as gazetted. I intend to forward these questions to DAE so that they can take note of issues that need to be addressed by the rules.

A Sanatkumar

12:16 PM

If an entity imports, say a nuclear reactor (for eg say with some special design fuel) from a foreign country [design of which has ALSO been approved by that country's Regulators], at a future date, the foreign country cites its regulations to control any aspect of our NPP, will it be acceptable to us? For eg, "MY SPENT FUEL SHALL ONLY BE STORED FOR EVER IN YOUR COUNTRY" ?

Ans: Under no circumstance will the country's sovereignty be compromised. Rules and regulations will provide the details of licensing of nuclear reactors with imported technology and fuel. With respect to the sovereign control over nuclear fuel, the SHANTI Act provides that nuclear fuel (imported or indigenously produced) shall be subjected to the applicable system of safeguards and the government's supervision. Also, while signing agreements of cooperation with various countries, it has been ensured that India has the right to reprocess spent fuel even when uranium has been imported. However, the SHANTI Act provides for the return of spent fuel, if any supplier country so desires.

Haridas Nair

12:18 PM

Presently also AERB reviews safety aspects and based on the assessment AERB, DAE issues the licence. Ho it is different now ?

Ans: Presently, DAE does not issue a licence for establishing nuclear reactors, as that is being done by the public sector only. DAE has been issuing licences for handling prescribed substances. The SHANTI Act clearly provides two separate agencies, DAE and AERB, to exercise control from different considerations. While DAE's control and licensing aims to establish the bona fide of the entity by evaluation of its organisational capabilities, AERB's safety authorisation will continue in the manner it is being done today, so as to ensure that the plant is safe throughout its lifetime.

Dr Prasad T L Gupta

12:18 PM

what is the roadmap of nuclear facilities to be planned by govt

Ans: This question does not relate to the topic of the webinar.

Ramakumar Karanam

12:18 PM

My desktop PC does not have camera and microphone. I request the Organisers to pass this query sheet to Dr. Grover. Thanks for an excellent presentation. Most significant feature of the Act is making AERB an independent statutory body answerable to legislature and not to Executive. I have the following queries: While ratifying CSC, the

Indian Government has explicitly linked CLND Act 2010 to CSC. What about Shanti Act 2025? When will the process of linking with CSC be initiated? In a recent interview with Business World, Dr. Anil Kakodkar observed that responsibility for damage arising due to latent defects in design or equipment would have to be settled between operator and supplier with operator holding that responsibility in any case. Does it mean that even though this clause was taken out in the Shanti Act, it is very much a matter of concern? What are your views? Now that the Shanti Act explicitly mentions nuclear safeguards, what steps will the Central Government take to ensure their implementation? I would like to mention here that AERB has published a series of safety codes and guides for ensuring proper adherence to safety protocols by the stake holders. I do not know if a similar platform exists for implementation of nuclear safeguards. In our safeguards agreement with the IAEA, there is provision for establishing State System of Accounting and Control (SSAC). Now that the nuclear sector is being opened to Private Entities, SSAC is absolutely needed for hiccup-free safeguards implementation. Proper documentation describing all the relevant information, protocols to be adhered during inspection of IAEA inspectors, Report preparation, timelines to be followed for sending information to the IAEA need to be looked into (Section 10, 3 (a) has a specific reference to safeguards documentation). There should be a single entity under Central Government to interact with the IAEA in matters of safeguards implementation. Will there be a separate body to oversee this important activity? This is all the more essential as this involves international commitments. This has not been addressed adequately. Some minor points: Under definitions, for minerals, reference is only to earth surface or sub-surface. But Section 5, 1 (a) seabed is also included. I feel there should be consistency. Your comment please! Section 3, 2(b) provides for issuing license to persons for establishing enrichment of U-235 up to a threshold value. But Section 3, 5 (a) mentions this activity is one among various activities exclusive to Central government. Comment please! Section 10, 3(d) provides for stationing employees of Central Government and AERB at the site of a nuclear facility. Will it be a permanent arrangement? What is the mechanism to implement the same? It was mentioned that "sufficient guardrails have been embedded in the Act for responsible management of nuclear science and technology." Appreciate elaboration with specific examples. FINALLY, does Shanti Act strengthens/ weakens the precious Acts (AEC Act 1962 and its amendments, and CLND Act 2010) or expands their scope?

There are several questions here.

- Yes, GOI informed IAEA about its legislative framework while ratifying CSC. At some stage, GOI will have to provide information about its new legislative framework to the IAEA. That is only a procedural matter.
- Yes, the CLND Act, 2010, has been merged into the SHANTI Act. The main difference is that section 17 (b) and section 46 of the CLND Act have been deleted. Regarding Dr Kakodkar's remarks, it is best that you speak with him.
- Regarding safeguards, I am sure the GOI will include in the Rules details about safeguards that you are looking for.
- Regarding remaining minor points, I am sure GOI will take note and clarify in the Rules.

Arjun Anilkumar

12:18 PM

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Can private sector operate a reactor independently or do they need to enter into joint ventures with a government entity like NPCIL?

Ans: Any Indian company (government-owned or private or their joint venture) can seek a license to set up a nuclear reactor. Please see section 3 for details.

Soumyadip Dey

12:19 PM

Question: In case of appeal against decision of Board, whether licensee is obliged to comply with the decision of Board till the appeal is disposed in AERC / Tribunal / Supreme Court?

Ans:

As per present legal practice, during the pendency of the hearing of an appeal, the decisions need to be complied with unless the Appellate Tribunal has granted a stay on the implementation of the decision. The rules will provide the required clarity, considering that there cannot be any compromise on safety at any stage.

S.Vannia Perumal Suyambu

12:19 PM

SHANTI act, after the implementation, whether Atomic energy act will be in effect or merged with SHANTI act

Ans: Please see section 91, sub-section 1. It says, "The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, are hereby repealed."

Dr. V. P. SINGH

12:19 PM

Amazing summary

Thanks for the appreciation.

Ramakumar Karanam

12:20 PM

I am wondering whether advanced technology can result in the reduction of magnitude of nuclear damage!

Ans: Assessment of safety has to be judged on a scientific basis. This issue is not a part of the Act or the webinar. Section 83 recognises that there could be advanced technologies in future.

Gollamudi Rama Rao

12:21 PM

since this is the first time a private agency is allowed; is there any provision to help in case the agency falters inadvertently in their commitment

Ans: AERB has the authority to inspect and regulate for safety a nuclear installation owned by a private agency, too. Any faltering in the commitment will be noticed by AERB. However, one has to note that nuclear power generation is unforgiving. A private entity should enter the nuclear sector only after establishing competence. Maybe they can start as a joint venture and take up full responsibility after gaining experience. AERB cannot be expected to relax any of its stipulations for a new entrant.

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Further, the Act empowers the Government and AERB to issue directions to ensure compliance if they falter. Provision has been made to levy monetary penalties (see section 70) for failure to comply with such directions at first instance or those of low safety significance. However, repeated violations or failures that give rise to significant risk will be dealt with as a criminal offence.

Manoj Kumar Shandilya

12:21 PM

Very informative and covering all the relevant topics. It will set the ball rolling in the future.

Ans: Thanks for the appreciation.

Soumyadip Dey

12:22 PM

Question: Whether License will be a prerequisite for applying / obtaining safety authorization or vice versa?

Ans: License is to be obtained from the Government to set up, build, own, operate or decommission a nuclear power plant. Safety authorisation will be given by AERB for the safe operation of the plant. The Rules and Regulations will provide more clarity on the manner of obtaining a licence and safety authorisation.

12:22 PM

Pls clarify whether industrial safety aspects /Occupational health safety of Nuclear power plant like NPCIL or NTPC would be under AERB regulatory control? If so, then Pvt company NPP industrial safety aspects would be under AERB purview ?

Ans:Please section 42.

Gollamudi Rama Rao

12:22 PM

As expected Dr Grover has covered many aspects on SHANTI

Ans: Thanks

Manoj Kumar Shandilya

12:23 PM

Sir, Suppose License is given by DAE and later AERB does not authorize for operation. What would be the consequences?

Ans: A license to set up, build, operate and decommission a nuclear power plant is to be given by DAE. AERB will provide safety authorisation to perform the activity as per the safety documents submitted by the entity. If AERB does not find the submission in order, it may request re-submission, additional information and clarification to satisfy itself about the safety of the NPP under all conditions of operation. Until AERB is satisfied, a plant cannot be put into operation. As a matter of fact, the plant management before operation has to ensure the availability of all necessary statutory approvals from various agencies.

Umasankari Kannan

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12:23 PM

How will Tariffs be controlled throughout the country?

Ans: Electricity tariff will be fixed by DAE in the same manner as at present. Please see section 37 for details.

sanjaysingh

12:23 PM

This is with respect to CNLDA, what is provision If the set amount is insufficient . Is Govt also liable for further financial support to operator?.

Ans: The maximum liability of an operator for each incident is capped as given in Schedule 2. In case compensation exceeds this value, GOI will seek support from CSC and also provide necessary financial support from its own funds. The CLND Act provides for establishing a Nuclear Liability Fund. SHANTI Act continues it. [Refer to Section 14]

Jagat Parikh

12:26 PM

Will the state power distribution companies mandated to buy nuclear energy

Ans: This does not form part of the ACT.

Subimal Saha

12:27 PM

whether AERB will carry out safety inspection.

Ans: AERB is authorised to inspect the premises of an NPP operator, both private and Government.

Prashant Mishra

12:29 PM

Sir, what are the liabilities of private players in case of a nuclear accident?

Ans: Both the private and government companies have similar liabilities as given in Schedule 2 of the ACT.

Dr. V. P. SINGH

12:29 PM

5 year license period for "prescribed substances" is issued from DAE to NPCIL, under few terms and conditions. After this license from DAE to NPCIL, AERB issues a license from AERB.

Ans: Question is not clear.

Pravin Patil

12:30 PM

What is role of AERB in security of facility

Ans: Wherever security has an interface with safety, it will be looked after by AERB.

nairnamitha

12:34 PM

whether the industrial safety of the NPP of private party will be reviewed by AERB

Ans: Explanation has been given previously. Please see section 42

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Haridas Nair

12:36 PM

With the new setup, AERB will not be a Regulatory body. It will a recommending authority to DAE . Is it right ?

Ans: Please see section 17. AERB continues to be a regulatory body for all safety matters, as it is today.

Prashant Mishra

12:44 PM

Sir, if the Government will pay the extra amount in case of an nuclear accident, whether it will not be a huge burden on the taxpayers of INDIA.

keepPinned

Ans: Already answered.

BVMa

12:46 PM

Thank you very much for adding the much needed history before explaining the SHANTI Act -Pratik Kadam.

Ans: Thank you

manoj

12:46 PM

After the SHANTI Bill is implemented, how long is it likely to take for the first nuclear reactor in India to start construction without involvement of NPCIL or DAE?

Ans: We have to wait till the rules are framed and the act is notified

Kasinath Balaji Machiraju

12:47 PM

Will the universities will be permitted to start Nuclear Engineering courses to develop manpower for this expansion?

Ans: It is a separate issue and is not in the scope of ACT.

Dr Mayank Verma

12:47 PM

Please do share recording of the talk and ppt, as many of us could not join due to capacity limitation in the webinar. We have been admitted now only.

Ans: pdf of the PPT will be uploaded on the INS website for anyone to download.

ashishramteke

12:48 PM

how the functional boundaries between the Central Government and the Regulatory Body are defined and managed in practice, particularly in areas where responsibilities closely interface—such as design licensing versus design safety authorisation, and nuclear security licensing versus regulatory authorisation of security measures that

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have safety implications—and how potential overlaps or ambiguities are addressed across different project phases.

Ans: A license for setting up a facility will be issued by DAE, and safety authorisation by AERB. Rules and Regulations will provide clarity.

Gaurav Raparia

12:50 PM

If it will create pressure on AERB as now it will be in mind that they have to face redressal issues also

Ans: AERB is a competent technical organisation. All their documentation is technically sound. Going forward, they have to ensure that documentation is also legally enforceable. Currently, too, AERB's decisions are being subject to a redressal mechanism (grievance redressal, appeals and litigations), though to the best of my information, no one has resorted to it. The SHANTI Act provides an intermediary forum for solutions for redressal before the matter is escalated to the Appellate Tribunal.

Ak Nema

12:50 PM

Excellent coverage ,sir siting activity would be pre licensing or post license activities

Ans: Rules will provide clarity.

PATEL DARSHAN

12:51 PM

Please share presentation due to communication issue in online meeting

Ans: pdf of the presentation uploaded on the INS website may be downloaded.

VIJAY MANCHANDA

12:51 PM

House full shows eminence of speaker . We are grateful to Dr Grover for creating interest in INS members

Ans: Thanks for the appreciation, Dr Manchanda.

Dr Mayank Verma

12:51 PM

When will SHANTI Act be enacted (and Atomic Energy Act be superseded)?

Ans: It is difficult to give an exact date. However, from the previous experience, it may take several months for notification.

Pradeep Bhatt

12:53 PM

If Universities want to setup test nuclear reactor, is that possible?

Ans: They have to take a license from the Government and safety authorisation from the AERB.

University, per se, is not an entity listed under section 3(1) of the Act. However, the Government is empowered to notify any other person as an eligible entity under clause

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(e) of section 3(1). If notified, Universities can set up reactors with a licence from the government and safety authorisation from AERB.

Jagat Parikh

12:59 PM

Very informative and insightful session. Thank you to Dr Grover and INS

Ans. Thanks for the appreciation

sugandhisuresh

1:00 PM

Thank you very much sir for the very informative session

Ans: Thanks for the appreciation.