

**Admiral L Ramdas (retd)  
PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VSM  
Former Chief of the Naval Staff  
Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar  
Magsaysay Awardee for Peace**

**'LARA'-Ramu Farm  
Vill: Bhaimala  
Alibag 402201  
Maharashtra  
Tel 02141-248711  
Fax 02141- 248733  
Mob 09860170960  
[lramdas@gmail.com](mailto:lramdas@gmail.com)  
17 Jan 2011**

Dear Shri Chavan,

**THE TRAGIC DECISION TO GO FOR NUCLEAR POWER  
AT JAITAPUR- KONKAN , MAHARASHTRA**

It has not been possible for me to meet you till now, but you may perhaps know that I am amongst the many thousands in our State who are completely against the Nuclear power project at Jaitapur. I had the privilege to command the Navy from Nov 1990 to Sep 1993 and have settled down in Village , Bhaimala in Alibag, Taluka ever since my retirement in 1993.

For many years now I have been vocal about the adverse effects of nuclear power. I am well aware of the Governments felt need for our great country to reach and maintain a high growth rate- preferably in double digits if possible! All of which cannot happen without adequate energy. In the context of climate change and the need to generate " Clean Energy" we seemed to have cottoned on to nuclear energy as being 'CLEAN". Nothing could be farther from the truth. I shall in the subsequent paragraphs elaborate the reasons for the same.

We are a country blessed with a beautiful coast and abundant sunshine. The winds on our coasts are truly worth exploiting. Specious arguments like solar and wind take up too much land , in comparison to a nuclear reactor park is no longer valid if we are ready to set up these renewable plants "OFF SHORE". Further the bureaucratic idea of supplying any and all energy only through a GRID is an outdated concept for a Nation whose population is mainly living in rural areas. We can very easily set up decentralized solar plants for clusters of villages.

Currently I am on a visit to Bangladesh and am therefore unable to gate crash your meeting which you propose to hold tomorrow in Mumbai. I just wish to say that this very small but vibrant country has done some wonders with providing solar power to its rural areas. The following is an extract from the magazine " Down to Earth" published by the Center

Center for Science and Environment, New Delhi. This is a quote from the Dec 16 to 31, 2010, issue of the magazine, on page 24. Quote “

Quote:

**Naturally, Solar**

**A simple plug and play technology, the solar home system is well suited to a country with 300 sunny days on an average. Home systems can easily meet the small needs of two thirds of the 100 million rural Bangladeshis with NO ACCESS to electricity from the GRID.**

**Grameen Shakti one of 32 Grameen social businesses is perhaps the worlds fastest growing rural renewable energy programme. Since its inception in 1996, till November 2010, Grameen Shakti had installed 500,524 home systems across all 64 districts of Bangladesh. It installs 20000 systems each month. Rural Services Foundation an NGO is a distant second with 94,482 installations till October this (2010) year. Unquote :**

**The article also states “ An 80 watts peak power system powers seven CFL lamps and a black and white TV in his six room house.”**

**This is the story from one of our neighbouring countries. We can with this kind of decentralized concept easily transform the rural scene in a matter of years. This will also enable the planners to divert energy to our industries and other priority users. Not only is this clean, but renewable energy and the sun is perennial and for free!**

### **WHAT IS WRONG AND DANGEROUS WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY**

- **The first and foremost negative for nuclear power is its inbuilt hazards. These are almost permanent and carry forward through generations.**
- **I have personal experience of the problems of possible accidents in a nuclear environment and its adverse effects on human beings. Suffice to say these are very dangerous can result in numerous forms of adverse effects to health -including death and reproductive functions.**
- **The escaping radiation from an accident are devastating to humans and the examples of the “Three mile island in USA and Chernobyl in the former USSR ( Ukraine) are too well known. The ill effects of Chernobyl include nearly 100,000 deaths and many are still suffering.**
- **Here in India our scientists have oversimplified the hazards and convinced our political masters about the clean and safe virtues of nuclear power. Whilst clearing the Jaitapur project Mr Jairam**

Ramesh clarified, “ I can take on board only the ecological objections raised by the KBS I have asked the Nuclear Power Corporation of India and its partner AREVA **to address the other economic commercial safety and technological issues. I do believe that the NPCIL must significantly improve and expand its public outreach programme.**“

- **No amount of public relations or outreach can outdo the Ever present reach of the disasters of a nuclear accident. The claims made by the AREVA scientists that an explosion/accident if any will be contained in the pressure vessel is all a good sales story. God forbid if we should have an accident at Jaitapur, we will have to shut down all the six reactors – the weakness of a nuclear park!- and clean up the mess – by those still alive and able!**
- **These reactors are no less than bombs and the scientists who promised us the world from AREVA and NPCIL will be no where to be seen! When the event happens.**
- **The EPR reactors have to date not been constructed or tried out anywhere in the world. Why then should we be the “Guinea Pigs’ and that too at such huge costs.**
- **The economic cost of this per Kilowatt of power will be so expensive that no one except those (industrialists) highly subsidized will be able to afford it. The lessons of ENRON must not be forgotten.**
- **There is still no safe way of waste disposal and all claims to the contrary are but only sales talk. This is still a very big challenge. We will saturate this beautiful country with nuclear ruins !**

**To conclude, I strongly recommend that we cancel the nuclear power project at Jaitapur. We still have some time to save our children and grandchildren. The USA and Germany have refrained from building new reactors for over a quarter century. We have reached our secure financial positions and booming economy today without these nuclear power plants. Why cannot we augment our felt needs with renewable energy for the future and avoid the dangers of nuclear power.**

**There is enough published information and data available about the risks, dangers and limitations of nuclear power. I will be happy to send you the same if you so desire.**

**Sincerely yours**

**Regards**

**L.Ramdas**

**Shri Prithviraj Chavan  
Chief Minister of Maharashtra**

