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भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

परमाणु ऊर्जा नियामक परिषद ATOMIC ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD

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PRESS RELEASE

FUNCTIONING OF DIRECTORATE OF RADIATION SAFETY IN KERALA

In the general interest of public, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) would like to elaborate on the background of setting up of Directorate of Radiation Safety (DRS) in Kerala and its mandate in regulating the medical diagnostic X-ray facilities in the State. The DRS is under the overall administrative control of DoHFW, Government of Kerala.

DRS, Kerala came into existence in the late 90's as a first of its kind agency to assist the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board in regulating the X-ray facilities in the State. At present, such directorates exist in few other states in the country for the same purpose.

Chairman, AERB, as a Competent Authority for Radiation Protection delegated powers to DRS towards activities such as carrying out regulatory inspections, issuance of layout approval to x-ray facilities on behalf of AERB apart from conducting radiation safety awareness programs. Besides, DRS was submitting hard copies of several applications to AERB for issuing registrations/licences. AERB issued Authorisation to DRS for these functions in 1999 and was periodically renewed.

Since 2013, AERB has addressed the regulation of ever-growing X-ray facilities all over the country in a more comprehensive manner after it set up a full-fledged, web-based online e-Licensing system, (e-LORA) as well as revising AERB Safety Code on medical x-ray installations. This system accepts on-line applications and issues all approvals which includes layout approvals to the medical facilities located wide across the country. The diagnostic x-ray facility owners of Kerala are also availing the e-LORA system, and obtaining approvals and Licences on-line, like other states.

In view of this advance of eGovernance development, Chairman, AERB in the latest Authorisation to Director, DRS, had limited the delegation of powers to DRS, Kerala for carrying out only regulatory inspection of medical diagnostic X-ray facilities. This Authorisation expired in December 2016. The renewal requires a formally endorsed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), between DoHF&W and AERB similar to the one adopted for other states.

AERB is in communication with DoHF&W, to conclude such a MoU and thereafter renewal of Authorisation.

(A. U. Sonawane)