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परमाणु ऊर्जा नियामक परिषद
ATOMIC ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD

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WEBSITE- UPDATE

AERB shuts down operation of some of the medical diagnostic X-Ray machines in Kerala owing to radiation safety non-compliances

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) is a regulatory body constituted under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, with the mission to ensure that the use of ionizing radiation and nuclear energy in India does not cause undue risk to the health of people and the environment. AERB regulates the facilities/institutions using radioactive sources and Radiation Generating Equipment (RGE) in medicine, industrial and research applications. Medical diagnostic X-ray machines (such as Computed Tomography, Radiography and Fluoroscopy) are the most widely used RGE in medicine.

The provisions of Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004, AE (RP) R, 2004, stipulate that the medical diagnostic X-ray machines operate with compliance to radiation safety and regulatory requirements and obtaining requisite Licence from AERB.

To verify compliance to the said Rules, three teams of AERB officers carried out surprise inspections during December, 2018, and inspected 207 equipment of 79 X-ray facilities in 12 major districts in Kerala.

In this campaign, AERB has sealed X-ray machines in 8 institutions as they were found non-compliant. Twenty-nine institutions have been issued with written warning and are required to meet specified regulatory and safety requirements within thirty days.

AERB has routine outreach programmes about the regulatory and safety requirements through advertisements in the print media and awareness programmes. The campaign of surprise inspections and suspension of the non-compliant facilities is coming on the back of such efforts from AERB.

In order to make the process of filling of applications and obtaining the AERB Licence simple, AERB has in place a web based e-licensing system (e-LORA). AERB also does not charge any fees for obtaining the requisite Licence. Owners of medical diagnostic X-ray facilities in the country, are advised to immediately obtain valid Licence from AERB by filing an application through AERB's internet based e-licensing system (e-LORA), if they have not already done so.

AERB also advises the public not to patronize the X-ray facilities which are not having valid Licence issued by AERB.

(A.U.Sonawane)