

KKNPP to Generate Power from October, Says DAE Official

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Srivilliputhur: Swapnesh Kumar Malhotra, Head, Public Awareness Division, Department of Atomic Energy, the Government of India, said that power generation in Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) will start from October this year.

Talking to students at an interactive session during the valedictory function of a two-day National Seminar and Awareness Programme on Saturday, on Applications of Radio Isotopes and Radiation Technology in Industry and Health Care, held in Kalasalingam University in Krishnankoil near here, Malhotra said that the KKNPP would reach criticality by September. Within four weeks after that stage, the plant would start producing electricity, he said.

Even though India is a



A K Kohli, Chief Executive, Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology, DAE, talking to students during the valedictory function of a two-day National Seminar at Kalasalingam University in Krishnankoil on Saturday.

democratic country, it is impossible to go and ask for individual opinions before commissioning the nuclear power plant, he replied to a query by a student.

"Public should have expressed their opposition before starting the construction of the nuclear power plant in

Koodankulam. But they did not raise their voice against it in the initial stage," he said.

It was only after extensive studies, the location for the plants was selected. Proper approval from the Forest and Environment ministry has been acquired before setting

up the plant. The radiation from the plant will not affect the livelihood of the people near the plant, he said.

A K Kohli, Chief Executive, Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology, said that people only in hundreds are protesting against the plant. But crores of people are waiting for the electricity production, so that they can have uninterrupted power supply. We should consider the larger benefit, he said.

A very limited amount of waste would be generated by the plant. While a large part of the waste would be recycled and used for other purposes, the non-recyclable waste would be used in the production of glass, he said.

Around 500 students from various parts of India took part in the seminar and presented papers covering various topics. Best papers were selected and prizes were distributed.

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