

Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act (CLNDA)

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Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act Latest News

Union government's recent announcement that it would amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act (CLNDA), 2010, and the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, is likely to enthuse American and French nuclear power companies, whose projects have been deadlocked due to legal concerns for more than 15 years.

About Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act

- The CLNDA was adopted by Parliament in 2010.
- It is the legal foundation that influences India's response to nuclear incidents.
- It is **based on** the international **principles of civil nuclear liability laid down in the Vienna Convention, Paris Convention, and Brussels Supplementary Convention.**
- It created **a mechanism for compensating victims** from damage caused by a nuclear accident, allocating liability and specifying procedures for compensation.

Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act Features

- The CLNDA provides for **strict and no-fault liability on the operator** of the nuclear plant, where it will be **held liable for damage regardless of any fault on its part.**
- This Act establishes the **operator's liability** for nuclear catastrophes **up to 1,500 crore**, which **requires insurance or financial security.**
- **In case the damage claims exceed ₹1,500 crore**, the CLNDA expects the **government to step in.**
- The Act has **limited the government liability** amount to the rupee equivalent of 300 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) or **about ₹2,100 to ₹2,300 crore.**
- In addition to establishing a timeline for compensation claims, the act authorises the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board to report incidents within 15 days.**
- In addition, the act **establishes a Nuclear Damage Claims Commission** to facilitate equitable compensation and conflict resolution.

Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act FAQs

Q1. What is the Paris Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage?

Ans. It is an international treaty that establishes a framework for civil liability and compensation in the event of nuclear accidents.

Q2. What is 1997 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage?

Ans. It is an amendment to the original 1963 Vienna Convention, established under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Q3. What is Nuclear Energy?

Ans. Nuclear energy is the energy released from the nucleus of atoms through nuclear reactions.

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