

N-Deal - sooner the better, says Kakodkar

Atomic energy commission chairman Anil Kakodkar Friday strongly supported the India-US civilian nuclear deal and said the sooner the nuclear safeguard agreement with IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) is wrapped up the better.

'History will not forgive us if we do not harness nuclear technology,' Kakodkar told IANS on the sidelines of a function at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) here.

'Going to IAEA to sign the nuclear safeguards agreement, sooner the better for wrapping up the deal by this year-end,' he said.

'I will not answer any political question,' he said when asked for his reaction to the political developments over the deal.

'We need nuclear energy. The uranium resources we have can only meet (power generation) up to 10,000 mw.

'We need uranium. We need nuclear technology,' Kakodkar said. 'Our reactors are operating at 50 to 55 percent due to mismatch between uranium supply and need. Earlier we were operating reactors at 70 to 80 percent.

'We need to augment supply from abroad till we mine our uranium reserves,' he said.

Kakodkar earlier delivered a lecture on 'Evolving Indian Nuclear programme: Rationale and perspectives' that was organised by the Indian Academy of Sciences.

(© IANS / India eNews)