



Civil Liability for Nuclear Claims Bill, 2010: Is Life Cheap in India?

An op-ed by Arjun Makhijani in *The Hindu*

Before the Indian Parliament votes on limiting the liability of nuclear operators due to accidents, it should carefully consider the much higher limits that the United States has set for itself about \$11 billion per incident industry maximum (under the Price-Anderson Act). The liability of the operator of the plant would be just Rs. 500 crores, about \$110 million, which is just one percent of the U.S. limit, and about \$450 million per accident. The proposed law allows an adjustment of this upwards or downwards to a possible lower limit of just Rs. 300 crores, or about \$65 million. But more than that, Parliament should consider that the actual damages could be far greater than the U.S. liability limit.

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