

Construction of Hirma Power Project in Andhra Pradesh

*251. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of construction of HIRMA Power Project in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the Centre's share in the project; and

(c) how the power generation would be shared?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) As per available information, there is no project by this name coming up in the state of Andhra Pradesh. However, a thermal power project by this name with a provisional capacity of 6x660 MW is being developed in the state of Orissa under the revised mega power projects policy announced by the Government in November, 1998. Construction on this project has not started.

(b) Nil.

(c) Proposals for purchase of power from this project have been received from some states. However, the final allotment of the power generated to these States would depend on several factors, particularly, the acceptance by them, of the conditions prescribed under the policy and final firmed up capacity of the project, etc.

Detection of Tunnel Near Chandigarh Bop

†*252. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Border Security Force has found out a 300 yard long tunnel near the check post at Chandigarh on Indian border in Gurdaspur sector, whose purpose was to create disorder in India by ISI, the Pak Intelligence agency;

(b) whether the work on the tunnel had been going on for the last three months;

(c) if so, whether Government have lodged protest with the Pakistan Government; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the reaction of the Pakistan Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) On 17th November, 1999, BSF patrol party of BOP Chandigarh in Gurdaspur sector while carrying out patrolling near BP No. 52/15 noticed a hole of 7 inches diameter inside the Sarkanda covered area. After examining the same, they searched the area and found two more such pits. One of the pits was dug up. After digging to a depth of about 5 feet, they found a tunnel of 3 feet diameter. The entire area was checked and it was found that the miscreants had started digging the tunnel from 30 Mtrs inside the Pak territory and that they had come upto 170 Mtrs on our side, but still remained 20 Mtrs away from our Border fence and could not cross the Border fence.

2. The tunnel is about 5 to 5 1/2 feet below the surface. After every 30 to 35 feet they had made vent holes of approximately 7 inches diameter. Some digging tools and clothing were also recovered from inside the tunnel. The exact period during which the digging of tunnel was in progress cannot be ascertained. However, this is the third tunnel found in the border areas. The first one was in March, 97 at BOP Channa in Ajnala (Amritsar) sub sector and second in Jan., 98 in Channa area of Ajnala sector, and now third one near BOP Chandigarh of Gurdaspur sector on 17th November, 1999.

3. The discovery of the tunnel was conveyed to the Indian delegation which was in Lahore at that time in connection with the bi-annual meeting between BSF and Pak Rangers. The matter was taken up with Pak Rangers and a joint verification of the tunnel was carried out by DG Punjab Rangers (Pakistan) and IG BSF Punjab Ftr (India) on 23rd November, 1999. A strong protest was lodged by the BSF with the Pak Rangers and the DG Punjab Rangers assured that he will make all out efforts to apprehend the culprits.