

(b) The original sanctioned cost of the Project was Rs. 1262.97 crores (at October, 1988 price level). After withdrawal of the French Civil contractor (M/s DSB), NHPC took over the plant and machinery of the DSB and the civil works were taken up departmentally with a view to completing the balance civil works. NHPC has awarded the contract to a new civil contractor (a Consortium of Indian and Norwegian firms) in March 1997. The required funds for completion of the project will be provided. In dam area 96% excavation and 25% concreting have been completed. In the 10.6 k.m. long underground head race tunnel 35.8% excavation has been completed. In underground power house area, excavation of power house cavern and transformer gallery is almost complete. The progress of supply of electrical, mechanical and hydro mechanical equipments is 93%. Other works are also progressing satisfactorily.

(c) and (d) There has been a delay in execution of the project which was originally to be completed in July, 1994. However, work on the project was suspended in August 1992 by the French consortium due to the alleged disturbed security environment. The revised cost of the project is Rs. 3559.77 cores (at November 1996 price level). The estimated time schedule for completion of the project is March, 2001.

#### NTPC Dues on State Electricity Boards

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

(a) whether a huge amount of dues from State Electricity Boards remains unpaid to NTPC and, if so, the quantum thereof;

(b) whether this has adversely affected the functioning of NTPC and created problems for it; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken for better realisation of dues from S.E.Bs. if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The amount of dues from State Electricity Boards (SEBs) unpaid to NTPC as on 31.10.1997 stands at Rs. 3997.65 crores plus a surcharge of Rs. 2434.88 crores.

(b) The low level of payments from SEBs has affected NTPC's ability to make timely payment to coal suppliers, oil companies, and suppliers of other inputs required for maintaining generation.

(c) The matter relating to recovery of outstanding dues is being consistently followed up by NTPC with the defaulting States/SEBs. In case of large defaulters, the power supply is also sometimes regulated. NTPC has also introduced a special incentive scheme for prompt payment by SEBs. It has also been decided that supply of power henceforth, would only be against advance payments or opening of irrevocable Letters of Credit. Government of India has also been facilitating NTPC to recover its dues from States through adjustments from devolutions from the Centre to the States.

बिहार में मेगा थर्मल पावर स्टेशन की स्थापना

280. श्री नागमणि: क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार बिहार में मेगा थर्मल पावर स्टेशन स्थापित करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) अगर हाँ, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार ने इस दिशा में क्या प्रयास किए हैं और उनके क्या परिणाम रहे?

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा विद्युत मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री योगेन्द्र कुमार भगताराम अलख): (क) जी, हाँ।

(ख) बिहार के नबी नगर में 1000 मेग्वा की मेगा विद्युत परियोजना का विकास किए जाने के लिए भारत सरकार ने प्रस्ताव रखा है।

(ग) पावर ग्रिड कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया ने इस परियोजना के लिए 18 अगस्त, 1997 को नोटिस इनवाइटिंग टेण्डर जारी किया है। बोली संबंधी प्रत्येक क्रय करने की अंतिम तारीख 30 नवंबर, 1997 है।

#### Impact of Price Hike of natural Gas on Power Generation Sector

281. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:  
SHRI GURUDAS DAS  
GUPTA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the impact of the recent hike in prices of Natural gas on the power generation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): The recent increase in prices of natural gas has resulted in an increase in the fuel component of power tariff of gas based power stations. The price of gas varies for different gas based projects depending inter alia upon the sales tax levied in different states and the calorific value of gas fired. The increase in tariff because of the recent hike in prices of natural gas is in the range of 15 paise/KWH to 18 paise/KWH in respect of gas power stations in the Central Sector.

#### Offering of Power Transmission Projects to Foreign and Domestic Companies

282. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision to offer six major power transmission projects to foreign and domestic companies;

(b) what are the main modalities of the agreements drawn up in this regard;

(c) in which States/Union territories the projects are located and what would be the completion dates; and

(d) what are the details of expenditure involved, the plans for investment and the results to be achieved in these six projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) The following six transmission projects, with a total estimated cost of Rs. 8,000 crores have been identified for investment with the involvement of private sector:

- (i) AC interconnector between Raipur in Western Region and Rourkela in Eastern Region — Rs. 300 Crores.
- (ii) Transmission system for evacuation of power from Hirma (Orissa) to the Northern Region — Rs. 3355 crores.
- (iii) Transmission system for evacuation of power from Hirma to the Western Region — Rs. 1300 crores.
- (iv) Transmission scheme in the chicken neck area of West Bengal to evacuate power from the North Eastern Region — Rs. 350 crores.
- (v) HVDC Line associated with transmission system of Talcher II project of NTPC in Orissa to evacuate power to southern Region — Rs. 1250 crores.
- (vi) DHDVDC terminus at Talcher Project in Orissa and at Kolar (near Bangalore) in Karnataka associated with Transmission system of Talcher II project of NTPC — Rs. 1520 crores.

The Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill 1997 was introduced in the last session of Parliament to amend the Indian Electricity Act 1910 and Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 to widen the scope for private investment in transmission projects. The Bill is under the consideration of the Standing Committee on