

power policy of the Government of India, the Pipavav Mega Power Project (2000 MW) in Gujarat is proposed to be based on either imported coal or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The Krishnapatnam Thermal Power Project (1500 MW) in Andhra Pradesh and the Cuddalore Thermal Power Project (1000 MW) in Tamil Nadu are proposed to be based on a blend of domestic and imported coal.

(c) to (f) The estimated cost and the commissioning schedule of the Pipavav Mega Power Project and the Krishnapatnam Thermal Power Project will be known only after the developers of these projects are selected on the basis of tariff based bids through international competitive bidding (ICB) process. The proposal to implement the Cuddalore Thermal Power Project has been subsequently dropped in view of the difficulties encountered in availability of land and readiness of the Cuddalore port. In accordance with the revised mega power project policy of the Government of India, Power Trading Corporation (PTC) has been incorporated, for the purpose of buying power from mega power projects under long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and selling the power to the beneficiary States also under long-term PPAs.

**Purchasing Power by Major Consumers from Power Generation Units**

1155. SHRI P.N. SIVA:

SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to allow major power consuming institutions to purchase power directly from power generation units;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the definition of major power consumers;

(c) whether Government have decided to levy a surcharge on these consumers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the decision will lead

to increase in the power tariff due to which the very purpose of the decision will be defeated?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA):** (a) to (d) As per provisions of Section 43A(c) of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, a generating company can sell power to any person with the approval of the Government or Governments concerned.

The Electricity Bill 2001 as introduced in Lok Sabha in August 2001, empowers the State electricity Regulatory Commission to allow open access in distribution in phases after cross subsidies are eliminated. It also provides that such open access may be allowed before cross subsidies are eliminated on payment of surcharge in addition to the charges for wheeling as may be determined by the State Commission. Such surcharge will be utilized to meet the requirement of current level of cross subsidy.

**Work Progress of Nimo-Basgo Hydel Power Project in Leh**

**1156. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY:** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of current status and work progress of Nimo-Basgo Hydel Project in Leh district under taken by NHPC;

(b) whether the Ministry is considering connecting Ladakh region of Leh and Kargil district with Northern Grid;

(c) whether the Ministry received any request for the same from the State Government; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction to the same?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA):** (a) The Nimo Basgo Hydro-electric Project in Leh with an installed capacity of 25 MW was entrusted to National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) for execution in the Central Sector, in July 2000, after an MOU was signed between the Ministry of Power and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for development of hydro projects in the State.