

Objection raised by ECL for setting up a new satellite township in Burdwan, West Bengal

594. SHRI . CHITTA BASU
Will the Minister of ENERGY
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Limited have since raised objections for setting up a new satellite township at Mangalpur, in P.S. Raniganj, District Burdwan, West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that West Bengal Government has since decided to go ahead with the plan; and

• (d) if so, what is the Central Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The land in Mangalpur, where the Government of West Bengal proposes to set up a new satellite township, contains huge reserves of high quality coal to the extent of 71 million tonnes. In case, township is allowed to be set up on this land, valuable coal would be locked up to the detriment of the economy of the State and the Country. The Eastern Coalfields Limited has therefore, pleaded for setting up of the township on some other alternative land.

(c) and (d) The Central Government is not aware whether the West Bengal Govt. has taken any final decision to go ahead with the plan. This matter was discussed in a meeting taken by the Minister for land & Land Revenue, Govt. of West Bengal, on 19-7-89, in which Chairman-cum-Managing Director, ECL objected to the setting up of the proposed satellite township; but it appears

that the West Bengal Govt. has not given up its plan to go ahead with the setting up of the aforesaid township.

Stabilisation of underground voids

595. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 80 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the method of stabilisation of underground voids has since been applied to the 13 subsidence cases; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b) An action Plan on the basis of the Ramjibanpur experiment for stabilisation of old, unapproachable underground voids in the Raniganj area has been prepared by Eastern Coalfields Ltd. in consultation with the Regional Institute of the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. at Asansol. The plan after approval will be implemented in stages according to the availability of funds.

Soviet aid to Thermal Power Plants

596. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2674 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th March, 1989 and State:

(a) whether the location of the Thermal Power Station has since been identified;

(b) if not what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) if it has been identified, what steps have since been taken to start work on the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF
ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH
RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It has not been possible to finalise the project for Soviet assistance due to the non-availability of requisite inputs and clearances.

(c) Question does not arise.

NHPC'S 800 KV Power Transmission Projects

597. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Hydro-electric Power Corporation has received World Bank aid for designing the, first-ever 800 KV extra high voltage transmission system in Asia;

(b) whether NHPC has already shortlisted consultants for designing this most-advanced high-technology system without inviting Global tenders for selecting such Consultants;

(c) whether an alleged non-decrypt company called RSW of Canada, which reportedly has no back-up technical supporting assistance, has been included in the shortlist of Consultants in preference to several other much more experienced Canadian, British and U.S. consulting organisations in this field;

(d) whether NHPC has made any inquiries from international customers on RSWs past performance in high-voltage transmission projects; and

(e) if so, what are the names of the international customers so contacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF
ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH
RAI): (a) No World Bank aid has been received by NHPC so far. However, the proposed 800 KV transmission system from Kishenpur (J&K) to Moga (Punjab) has been appraised by the World Bank for funding.

(b) and (c) The corporation has shortlisted six International Companies including M/s RSW of Canada for designing the transmission system in consultation with Central Electricity Authority and the World Bank.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

National Power Transmission Corporation,

598. SHRIPUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA:

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI
VIRUMBI:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a National Power Transmission Corporation to design, erect and maintain transmission of bulk electric power:

(b) if so, what are the details of the projects which the proposed Corporation will be entrusted with;

(c) whether the proposed extra high voltage projects of 500 KV in Maharashtra and 800 KV of NHPC will also be designed and executed by this proposed Corporation; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for which States and NHPC are being permitted to import different types of technologies from different countries for power transmission when a National Power Transmission Corporation