

[3 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

Hydro Power Potential in West Bengal

*384. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2195 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 2007 and to state:

(a) whether any survey of mini and macro-hydro power potentiality in West Bengal has ever been made apart from what has been stated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that no action has yet been taken to tap hydro-power potentiality in Rammam-I and Rammam-III sources; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) had carried out the Re-assessment Studies of hydro-electric potential of the country which were completed in the year 1987. Based on these Studies reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no 2195 was given on 19th march, 2007. The subject relating to development of small/mini/micro hydro power projects, which installed capacity upto 25 MW, was transferred from the Ministry of Power to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in November, 1999.

As informed by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, 23 small/mini/micro hydro projects with an aggregate installed capacity of 98.4 MW have been commissioned and 16 projects with an aggregate capacity of 79.25 MW are under implementation in the State of West Bengal. In addition, 141 potential sites" with an aggregate"capa~city of 213.5 MW has been identified for small/mini/micro hydro-electric projects in West Bengal.

(c) and (d) The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Rammam Stage-I Hydro Electric Project in West Bengal with installed capacity of 36 MW (3x12) was accorded Techno Economic Clearance by CEA in December, 1991. However, construction of the project in the State Sector is yet to be taken up.

Rammam State-III Hydro Electric project (120 MW) is being implemented by National Thermal Power Corporation. The Concurrence of CEA was accorded for this project in September, 2006. The clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests is awaited. The works are expected

to be awarded by March, 2008 and the project is expected to be commissioned during 2011-12.

Delayed private power generation projects

*385. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private sector power generation projects are lagging behind their schedules;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise; and

(c) the reasons therefor, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) (to) (c) The Electricity Act, 2003 has liberalized generation. No license is required for setting up a power generating station. The independent power producer has to only obtain the statutory clearances such as environmental and forest, etc., tie up sale of power and thereafter achieve financial closure for commencement of construction and implementation of the project. As per information available with the Central Electricity Authority, the project-wise details of the private sector power generation projects which have achieved financial closure but are presently behind their commissioning schedules, along with the reasons thereof are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Project & State	Capacity (MW)	Executing Agency	Commissioning schedule		Reasons for delay
				Original	Now Anticipated	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Maheshwa HEP MP.	400 (10x40)	Maheshwar Hydro Power Corporation Ltd.	March, 2009	2010-11	The project construction came to a halt in September, 2001 due to financial constraints impacted by withdrawal of financial tie-up with foreign collaborators and work could thereafter be resumed only in November, 2005
2.	Karcham Wangtoo HEP, HP.	1000 (4x250)	Jaypee Karcham Hydro Pvt. Ltd.	2009-10	2011-12	On account of delays in accordance of environmental clearance (9.11.2005) and diversion of forest land (17.11.2005). Financial closure has since been achieved In March.