

Renovation of Indraprastha Power Plant

†*14 SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Environment and Forests has refused to issue a 'No Objection Certificate' for renovation of the Indraprastha Power Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to eliminate the growing power crisis in Delhi due to lack of renovation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILAKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To eliminate the growing power crisis, besides improving the availability, reliability and generation of the existing units by adopting best modern O & M practices, Delhi Government has also plans for setting up of new power projects. The Power position in Delhi is regularly reviewed by Ministry of Power.

Increase in seats in higher studies

†*15. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to increase the seats in higher educational institutions to nullify the ill-effects as a result of implementation of the proposal providing reservation in the field of higher education to backward classes;

(b) if so, in which areas of higher education Government have assessed the requirement for increasing additional seats and in what number; and

(c) Government's future plan regarding this issue?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) There are no ill effects of reservations, as they bring about greater equity and inclusiveness in access to higher education. There is a decision 'in principle' to retain seats available outside reservation at present level, while implementing reservations so that the over all availability of seats is increased.

(b) and (c) An Oversight Committee has been constituted along with five working groups, to make necessary assessments in this regard.

Mauda Thermal Power Plant in Nagpur

***16. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:**

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 275 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 2006 and state:

(a) whether Government have since revisited the issue relating to setting up of 1000 MW coal-based Mauda Thermal Power Plant in Nagpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) In the course of identification of power projects for NTPC's capacity addition programme, a site near Mauda, considering its proximity to coal-mines of Western Coal Fields Ltd., was identified as one of the prospective sites in Nagpur District of Maharashtra. However, the mines identified for supply of coal to the project in Wardha Valley Coal Fields were found to be of very small capacities and scattered over a large area. Therefore, linkage of coal for the project was granted from Ib Valley of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) in Orissa, located about 600 Kms. away. Consequently, the cost of coal transportation works out to be about Rs. 585 per tonne, resulting increase of the cost of power by about 45 paise/Kwh. Thus, economic ranking of Mauda Thermal Power Project did not compare favourably with NTPC's proposed pit-head based integrated Mega power project in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh with a capacity of 4000 MW for meeting the power requirement of the Western Region beneficiaries including Maharashtra.

However, due to acute shortage of power in Western Region in general and Maharashtra in particular, the Ministry of Power held detailed discussions with NTPC and it has been decided that NTPC would revisit