

Status of Teesta hydro electric power project

†829. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Teesta Hydro Power Projects III, IV (Rambi, Kalijhanda) have not been completed as per schedule;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the additional amount provided, so far, for these projects in excess of the estimated cost;
- (d) whether any enquiry has been made with regard to proper utilization of the additional funds provided for the said purpose; and
- (e) whether the Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha movement in Darjeeling has any effect on the delay in completing the projects within time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) and (b) Teesta Low Dam Hydro-electric Project Stage-III at Rambi in West Bengal, being implemented by NHPC Ltd, was approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) at a cost of Rs.768.92 crores with target date of completion in March, 2007. The project is still under construction due to delays caused by late handing over of forest land, floods in 2007 & 2009, frequent bandhs/strikes etc.

Similarly, Teesta Low Dam Hydro-electric Project Stage-IV at Kalijhora in West Bengal, being implemented by NHPC Ltd, was approved by CCEA at a cost of Rs. 1061.38 crore with target date of completion in September, 2009. The project is still under construction due to delay in award of Electrical & Mechanical works, delay in decision of participation of Chinese firms, floods in 2007 & 2009, frequent bandhs/strikes by local political outfits, etc.

(c) Expenditure incurred so far on these projects is given as under:

S. No.	Name of Project/Location	Approved cost (Rs. in crore)	Provisional expenditure till Jun'10 (Rs. in crore)
1.	Teesta Low Dam Project Stage-III, West Bengal	768.92	1142.73
2.	Teesta Low Dam Project Stage-IV, West Bengal	1061.38	748.53

(d) According to NHPC, the funds have been spent as per the requirement of the project. The expenditures have been regularly audited and no specific qualified remark has been given by the auditors in the Balance Sheet.

(e) The frequent bandhs/strikes by Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha (GJMM) movement in Darjeeling has adversely affected the pace of construction of these projects and their timely completion. The latest blockade called by GJMM lasted for 70 days from 10.05.2010 to 19.07.2010 with complete stoppage of project work on both these projects.

Shortage of coal at thermal power plants

†830. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power generation in a number of major thermal power plants in the country have stopped due to paucity of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of thermal power plants in the country along with their generation capacity and the quantum of power generated during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):
(a) and (b) None of the power station have stopped power generation due to paucity of coal. However, due to only 87.4% materialization in availability of domestic and imported coal during April - June, 2010, power utilities have reported a generation loss of 2.1 BU during this period.

(c) The details of power stations of capacity 25 MW and above in the country (as on 30.06.2010) of which generation is monitored in CEA along with power generated from thermal power stations during the last five years (2005-06 to 2009-10) and the current year (April - June, 2010) are given in Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi