

- (a) whether there have been any technical irregularities in NTPC's bid recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken to avoid such situation in future?

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

(a) As reported by NTPC, there are no irregularities in NTPC's bidding process and its bid. The tender documents are issued to all the parties/bidders who render the tender document cost, as applicable. The bidding documents are also available on NTPC official tender website, from where the interested parties/bidders may download the same against the payment of tender document cost, as applicable. The Evaluation Criteria for selection of Award is explicitly stipulated in the Tender Documents, which ensures transparency in the process. In case of contracts valuing Rs.10 Crore & above 'Integrity Pact' is signed with bidders, not to exercise any corrupt influence on any aspect of the contract. Further, in case of contracts valuing Rs.100 Crore & above, Independent External Monitors are also appointed for monitoring the bidding process & execution of contract as per Integrity Pact.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of the reply as at (a).

Speedy clearance of hydro-electric projects

850. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the starting of new hydro-electric projects is a very lengthy process and it takes maximum time for its production;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Government would take for early clearances and rehabilitation process?

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

(a) and (b) Development of a hydro electric project broadly involves Conceptualization of the project with available data/information, preparation of pre-feasibility report (PFR) after carrying out survey

and investigation, preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), submission of DPR by the Project Authority to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for concurrence, examination of DPR by CEA in consultation with Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Geological Survey of India (GSI) etc., Clearances from concerned authorities in case of inter-State/Country aspects, Clearances by Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) in respect of forest and environment clearance, etc.

Thus, the construction of a hydro project takes about 5 to 8 years depending upon the features of the project and site conditions.

(c) There is a well defined process including prescribed time limits for according of various clearances. The Government also regularly reviews and monitors the status of various clearances to hydro projects with a view to expedite the clearances and rehabilitation of displaced people as per the National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation-2007 of the Government of India.

Rights over minor forest produce

851. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to grant rights over the "minor forest produce" to the tribals to ensure their livelihood, particularly the naxal-affected districts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating changes sought in the integrated action plan for the development of these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) As per Clause 4(m)(ii) of the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996 (PESA), Panchayats at the appropriate level and the Gram Sabha are endowed with the ownership of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) in Schedule V Areas.

(b) To address critical gaps in development in 35 focus districts affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE), Planning Commission has initiated the process of preparation of Integrated Action Plan (IAPs) for these focus districts with the help of the State Governments and the district administrations and elected representatives, keeping in view the deliberations in the National Development Council (NDC) meeting held on 24th July 2010.