

Hydro-power potential In Assam

1864. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as part of exploration of hydro potential in the Assam region, the Lower Kopili Hydro Electric Project (150 MW) and Upper Barapani Hydro Power Project (60 MW) were identified; and

(b) if so, by when these two projects would be commissioned to ease the power crisis in Assam State, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Lower Kopili HEP (150 MW): North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) prepared the Feasibility Report in October, 2002 and obtained commercial viability Authority In February, 2003. The project area falls within Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and N.C. Hills Autonomous Council of Assam. In spite of several rounds of discussions with the various stake holders, the implementation Memorandum of Understanding between Government of Assam and NEEPCO could not be signed upto now and the project could not be taken up.

Upper Borpani HEP (60 MW): The project involves Inter-State aspects with Meghalaya, who have not given their concurrence to Assam for taking up the project.

Use of Assam Coal for Power Generation

1665. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NTPC has agreed to use Assam coal for Its Kunguri, Salakati NTPC project;

(b) whether Government have examined the possibility of transportation of coal, in an alternative way, in extreme cases, through the river Brahmaputra from Dibrugarh to Jogighopa to carry the coal rakes by ships for generation of power to the proposed 500 MW power project to be commissioned by NTPC at Kungun, Salakati, which is expected to be commissioned by 2009; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. NTPC is going to set up Bongaigaon Thermal Power Project (2x250 MW) at Salakati in Kokrajhar district of Assam based on Assam coal at the existing location of Assam State Electricity Board of Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station which had been shut down for quite some time.

(b) and (c) Presently, coal transportation is envisaged through Indian Railways system. NTPC also envisages to undertake study to finalize optimal mode of transportation of coal, in addition to rail transportation, after examining various options including transportation through waterways.

Per Unit Cost of Power

1866. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the unit cost of power generated by private sector power plants is higher than the power generated by the public sector power plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any propossl to form a uniform costing policy for both sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The per unit cost of power generation by the plants depends on fixed and variable cost. Most of the plants in private sector have come up in the recent past, for which capital investment is more, hence the fixed cost is higher. The comparative details indicating the weighted per unit cost of power purchased from public and private power plants are enclosed as Statements (See below)

(c) and (d) As per the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, the tariff for supply electricity by a generating company to a distribution licensee is to be determined by Appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission in accordance with its regulations on terms and conditions for the determination of tariff.