

[10 August, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

Subansiri Lower Hydro-electric Project

1858. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) why Subansiri Lower Hydro-electric Project in Arunachal Pradesh/Assam by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation is being delayed; and

(b) what steps the Government has taken so far to remove the hurdles, if any?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Approval of the Government of India was conveyed on 9.9.2003 for implementation of the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (HEP) (2000 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh in the Central Sector by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC). The project is scheduled for commissioning in September, 2010. Contracts for major civil and electro-mechanical works have been awarded by NHPC. The contractors have mobilized their manpower and equipments and works have commenced.

The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh had asked NHPC to suspend all works activities on Subansiri Lower HEP and to wait for outcome of the review petition of the State Government regarding vacation/modification of order dated 19.4.2004 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The State Government is concerned about the conditionalities imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India regarding not taking up other projects upstream of Lower Subansiri HEP and declaring the catchment area of Lower Subansiri HEP as wild life sanctuary. The matter has been taken up by Government of India with the State Government informing it that NHPC would also file a review petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court for modification of its order dated 19.4.2004. The State Government has also been requested not to insist upon stoppage of the works. The construction activities on the project are going on.