

power stations designed on imported coal. Ministry of Coal is regularly impressed upon to enhance production of domestic coal in the country.

**Violation of environmental safeguards measures by
hydro-electric projects**

894. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report based on a study undertaken to assess the efficacy as well as the implementation of Asian Development Bank's (ADB) safeguard measures to address public concerns related to environmental issues has revealed that the hydro-electric projects in Himachal Pradesh are violating its own safeguards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a group of eminent activists, intellectuals and environmentalists has written to ADB to stop funding to such hydro-electric projects which are completely ignoring ecological impacts; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (d) Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL), a State Government Undertaking, has informed that the statutory Environment Impact Assessment study report prepared by a credible independent third party did not find any irremediable impacts or violations and no violation has been reported by any statutory body till date. HPPCL has further informed that a report from some people, who are also supporting an appeal before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and another court case before the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh alleging few violations, has been received by them. Further, a group of people with unverified credentials has written to Asian Development Bank (ADB) to stop funding based on unsubstantiated allegations. HPPCL has stated that preliminary verification of these allegations reveals that the report is not based on facts and appears to be motivated and biased.

Power shortage in eastern States

†895. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the eastern States of the country would have to face reduction in allocation of power due to increase in power consumption in Bhutan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.