

Undue benefit to private companies by GAIL

1195. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private power producing companies have been given undue benefit of Rs. 246 crores by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) in the recent years by providing natural gas to these companies at subsidized rates against the norms set down by Government;

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

(c) whether Government has enquired into the matter and fixed responsibility in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Comptroller and Auditor General Audit had in an Audit Para brought out that GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) supplied natural gas at subsidized rates, to power companies generating and supplying electricity to their consumers at commercial rates leading to under recovery of Rs. 246.16 crore.

(c) to (e) GAIL has been directed to recover the dues from the relevant customers, as APM rate is applicable only for power utilities supplying power to State utilities/ licensed distribution companies. GAIL has reported that it is complying with the directives of the Ministry and is invoicing all these customers at non-APM rates *w.e.f.* 16.11.2011. However, against this the customers have moved to the court/ arbitration.

**Restoration of power to Odisha from NTPC,
Kaniha Stage-II**

1196. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Ministry of Energy, Odisha have made several demands to restore the additional 500 MW of power from NTPC,

Kaniha Stage-II which had earlier been surrendered by Odisha with an understanding to restore this as and when the need of the State arises; and

(b) if so, by when the power will be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Talcher Super Thermal Power Station Stage-II was conceived in the year 1992 as inter regional power station for the benefit of Southern Region States and Odisha. Although initially Odisha requisitioned 35% of the capacity and initialed the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) but latter (15.07.1997) surrendered the power from this project. Therefore, the entire power was allocated to Southern Region beneficiary States and PPAs were signed accordingly. The NTPC Board approved the investment in the project as Southern Region plant. The Energy Minister, Odisha requested for 15% unallocated power and Government of India agreed in principle (August, 2006) to 10% home State share and Chief Secretary, Odisha was informed by Secretary, Power and the issue was settled as 200 MW of power was allocated to Odisha as home State share in April, 2007. Government of India has also decided to allocate 50% power to Odisha from NTPC's Gajmara, Darlipalli and Talcher expansion projects. Accordingly, the question of further release of power from Kaniha Stage-II project does not arise.

Lack of fuel with coal based power plants

1197. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has warned the Ministry of Coal that any further delay in restoring of domestic coal linkages to imported coal fired plants would adversely affect the country's power generation targets;

(b) if so, the response of the Ministry of coal in this respect;

(c) whether the coal based power plants across the country are on the verge of collapse in the absence of adequate coal supply; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to protect such power plants from collapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term) of Ministry of Coal in its meeting on 29.1.2010, recommended grant of linkage for 30% of the requirement/capacity of six imported coal based plants with a view to have a judicious mix of imported and indigenous