Sale of assets by private companies to NTPC

578. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that private companies desire to sell power assets to NTPC;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some companies are not producing even a single unit since installation of power projects; and

(d) if so, whether buying such companies would be useful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) NTPC sought Expression of Interest (EOI) from State Electricity Boards/Power Generation Companies, Independent Power Producers (IPP), Power Plant Developers, Captive Power Producers, or their authorized representatives for "Offering their coal based thermal power projects for possible acquisition by NTPC" *vide* EOI dated 21.02.2014. Against this EOI, 34 proposals have been received.

Hydro power projects in hilly States

†579. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry would give priority to smaller projects in place of Mega hydro power projects in hilly States of the country;

(b) if so, the locations where the Ministry has explored the possibility of smaller dams; and

(c) if not, the details of the alternative plans chalked out by the Ministry to meet the rising demands of power in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Hydro projects are site specific and the choice of site for hydro plants, small or large, depends on many factors such as topography, hydrology, geology of the area etc. Hydro projects having installed capacity up to 25 MW are classified as small hydro projects and hydro projects of 500 MW and above capacity are considered as Mega projects. The capacity of a hydro project is fixed for optimum utilization of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

hydro potential at any particular site. Generally, in a particular river basin, combination of small as well as major/medium hydro projects are proposed for development, depending upon the site conditions. However, due to advantages of economy of scale and overall larger benefits in return, major/medium hydro projects (above 25 MW capacity) are more economical and preferred over smaller hydro projects.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is providing technical and financial support for implementation of Small Hydro Power (SHP) Projects upto 25 MW in the country and most of the Projects are either Canal based or Run of the River Projects which do not require a dam or huge reservoirs. The potential of 20,000 MW has been identified for SHP.

(c) To meet the rising demands of power in future, 88537 MW capacity addition (excluding Renewable Energy Sources) has been planned in the 12th Plan period (2012-17), out of which 10897 MW capacity addition is planned from hydro projects. As on 30.6.2014, 1757.67 MW capacity from hydro projects has already been added in the 12th Plan.

Fuel shortage at power plants

580. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the power plants, coal-fired as well as gas-fired, are not working at full capacity due to fuel crunch;

(b) if so, the installed capacity of various power plants, both in private and public sectors and the existing capacity utilization of each plant; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure supply of fuel to these plants for the optimum utilization of the capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Coal based power plants, in general, are not lying idle/sub-optimally utilised on account of coal supply. However, power shortage faced by the States due to coal shortage is only to an extent of the generation loss of 120 Million Units (MUs) during 2014-15 (April to May, 2014). Power station-wise detail is given in the Statement-I *(See* below).

Further, due to non-availability of adequate fuel, existing gas-based power plants