

**Expansion of NTPC project at Ramagundam**

2498. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to expand the NTPC project at Ramagundam to help Telangana to overcome its power shortage, as provided in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Thirteenth Schedule of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 states that “NTPC shall establish a 4000 MW power facility in the successor State of Telangana after establishing necessary coal linkages”.

Accordingly, NTPC proposes to set up a coal based thermal power station of 4000 MW capacity in two stages of 2x800 MW (Stage-I) and 3x800 MW (Stage-II) in Telangana.

Mandakini-B coal block has been allocated for this 4000 MW project and tapering coal linkage has also been allocated for stage-I from Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) by the Ministry of Coal.

**Hydro power projects in West Bengal**

2499. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many hydro power projects have been proposed and approved in West Bengal;

(b) what are the reasons for delay, if any, in case of each of these; and

(c) what are the targets fixed for operationalising them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Two Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs) viz. Teesta Low Dam-IV (160 MW) and Rammam-III (120 MW) in the State of West Bengal have been accorded Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) by Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Teesta Low Dam-IV is scheduled to be commissioned during 2016-17 and Rammam-III is scheduled to be commissioned during 2019-2020. Teesta Low Dam-IV project is running behind the schedule on account of following reasons:

(i) Delay in forest clearance;

(ii) Flash floods in July, 2007, May, 2009, July, 2010;