

Depletion of fresh water resources due to thermal power plants

1684. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's fast depleting fresh water resources could be further impacted due to new coal based thermal power plants with a combined capacity of over 52,000 MW, according to a report by environmental group Greenpeace International;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a quarter of the thermal power plants proposed to be set up are located in regions that are already suffering from severe overdraw of fresh water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Report of Greenpeace International has not been examined in this Ministry.

The Government has not separately assessed the Thermal Power Plants to be set up in areas which face severe water scarcity in the country. Coal based Thermal Power Plants are considered for setting up keeping in view of the availability of land, water, fuel etc. at inception stage. Allocation of water for Thermal Power Projects is done by Water Resources Department (WRD) of the concerned State Government where the project is located and WRD of the State assess all factors before allocation of water.

Hydro power potential

1685. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has made an assessment of hydro power potential of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, hydro power project-wise;

(c) the targets set for generating electricity during the last and the current five year plans;

(d) whether the targets have been achieved;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any proposal for setting up of new hydro projects and for renovating/refurbishing the existing hydro projects; and