

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2239
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2022

DISCREPANCY IN POWER BILL FOR BIHAR

2239 # SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of **POWER**
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NTPC has done the billing of firm power instead of infirm power for a period of 16 months from unit 4 of the stage-2 based at Barh power station;
- (b) whether Bihar had to pay a bill of ₹ 2,424 crore in place of ₹ 564.85 crore on account of said manner of bill calculation;
- (c) whether Bihar has made a refund claim of ₹ 2,600 crore including the interest component thereof;
- (d) details of amount payable by Bihar to the power companies till date; and
- (e) whether Government would adjust the dues against the extra amount paid, if so, details thereof?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) to (c) : After declaring Unit-4 of Barh Phase II Commercial on 15.11.2014, NTPC was raising the bills (i.e. Fixed Cost and Variable Cost etc.) as per the petition filed in Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) for determination of tariff in accordance with the CERC Tariff Regulations and the Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) signed between Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). At that time, it was billed as firm power.

However, later CERC vide its order dated 20.09.2017 revised the Commercial Operation Date of Barh-II Unit-4 from 15.11.2014 to 08.03.2016. In the above order, CERC held that power injected by NTPC in respect of the Unit 4 before 8.3.2016 shall be treated as infirm power even though power was scheduled by the beneficiaries during the period. The revenue earned over and above fuel cost from sale of infirm power from 15.11.2014 to 7.3.2016 shall be adjusted in the capital cost. This would result in reduction of tariff for future supplies.

As per the above CERC order, the revenue earned over and above fuel cost from sale of infirm power is to be adjusted in capital cost and not to be refunded to beneficiaries. The same principle was reiterated by CERC in order dated 18.03.2019.

Some beneficiaries challenged the CERC Order regarding adjustment of amount from capital cost in Appellate Tribunal of Electricity (APTEL). APTEL has upheld the CERC Order in this regard. Against this Judgment of APTEL, GRIDCO & Govt. of Bihar have moved to Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the matter is sub-judice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

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(d): As per NTPC, the amount payable by Government of Bihar to NTPC & its Joint Venture / Subsidiaries is as following:

Company	Total Amount Payable till 10.03.2022 (in crores)	Amount Payable beyond 45 Days (in crores)
NTPC	1049	NIL
KBUNL (Subsidiary)	964	601
BRBCL (Subsidiary)	192	138
NPGCL (Subsidiary)	1168	589
Total	3373	1328

(e) : As indicated above; the matter is sub-judice.
