

Commission, *inter alia*, adequate number of police personnel in order to ensure that the elections were held smoothly and peacefully. The Chief Minister of Delhi had also suggested that the elections to the Corporation might be held on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2002. The Central Government did not, however, consider it possible to spare during the month of February, 2002 any additional Para Military Force for the said purpose in view of heavy commitment of such Force in connection with Assembly elections in four other States.

(b) Delhi Police have projected a requirement of 35 Coys of Central Para Military Force to assist them in conducting the ensuing elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

(c) The overall availability of the Force was kept in view before the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi was advised that it was not possible to spare any additional Force during the month of February for conducting the Municipal Elections.

#### 1000 MW coal based power plant in Karnataka

\*144. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to set up 1000 MW coal based power plant in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details of the technical feasibility study conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) On the basis of a request from the Government of Karnataka, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) carried out a pre-feasibility exercise in May, 2001 for setting up a 2000 MW coal/Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) based power project near Karwar in Karnataka and it was found to be a non-viable option to take up such a project at Karwar either with coal or LNG as fuel. NTPC also examined a site in Brahmavar Sub-Taluk, Udupi Taluk and District in June, 2001 but did not find it suitable. Further, the request of Government of Karnataka for NTPC's participation for implementation of Vijayanagar power project as a joint Venture was examined by NTPC, but was not found techno-economically suitable.

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NTPC has, however, indicated that they may examine the possibility of setting up a coal based power project for Mangalore for inclusion in its long term capacity addition programme in 12<sup>th</sup> Plan, if a suitable site with availability of land to the extent of 2500-3000 acres conforming to the power plant sitting criteria (fulfilling environmental and civil aviation requirements) is identified by Government of Karnataka preferably within 50-60 Kms from Mangalore Port and close to sea or adequate water source and Konkan Railway line. There has been no response from Government of Karnataka in this regard.

**Passport Reading Machines at Bangalore Airport**

\*146. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for putting up state-of-the-art passport reading machines at the Immigration Counters at the Bangalore airport;

(b) if so, how many such machines are being installed at Bangalore airport;

(c) what is the cost of these machines and from where these are being imported;

(d) whether clearance has been given to the Karnataka State Government to procure these machines; and

(e) the approximate time to be taken for immigration clearance after installing these machines at Bangalore airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) There is proposal under the consideration of the Government of Karnataka to import four passport reading machines from UK at an estimated cost of Rs.17 lakhs, for being installed at the Bangalore International Airport.

(d) and (e) The Government of India has not received any proposal from the State Government of Karnataka for clearance in this regard.