

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
APPROVAL OF POWER PROJECTS .

445

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK

Will the Minister of COAL/COAL POWER be pleased to state :-

- (a) the time taken by the agency responsible for according approval for the power generation projects;
- (b) whether it is a fact that due to cumbersome procedure, the decisions are not being taken in time; and
- (c) whether Government is intending to appoint a Unified Agency/Central Authority for according approval to such projects to avoid procedural delays which hinder the approval for such projects so that the time taken in such projects could be reduced to the minimum?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF POWER

(SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) to (c) :A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 445 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE RAJYA SABHA ON 21.12.2009 REGARDING APPROVAL OF POWER PROJECTS.

(a) :With the enactment of the Electricity Act, 2003, technical concurrence of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is not required for setting up of new Thermal Power Projects. However, technical concurrence of CEA is required for setting up of Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs), estimated to involve a capital expenditure exceeding such sum as may be fixed from time to time, by notification by the Central Government. As per the CEA's guidelines, if an HEP is found to be technically acceptable with necessary inputs/clearances, the Authority shall accord concurrence for its implementation, as far as practicable within a period of 90 (ninety) working days from the date of submission of 22 copies of DPR, complete in all respects.

(b) :While according technical clearance to all HEP, the CEA takes the assistance of Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR), Geological Survey of India (GSI) etc. to ensure whether adequate studies have been made for optimum location of dam and other river works. The CEA also consults the State Government or Central Government or such other Government agencies as deemed appropriate.

For the years from 2003-04 to 2009-10 (upto 15.12.2009) average time taken to accord concurrence has been varying from 14 days to 49 days, however, the time taken for three projects, namely, Singoli Bhatwari HEP, Alaknanda HEP and Rupsiabagar Khasiabara HEP in Uttarakhand has been more than the time planned by CEA. This has been mainly due to non-resolution of issues related to design of various civil structures between the developer and Central Water Commission (CWC) as also longer time taken in obtaining clearance from Geological Survey of India (GSI) on account of inadequate geological investigations.

(c) :Single window clearance of HEPs for according technical concurrence has been implemented in CEA. The Office of the Secretary, CEA is acting as single window in CEA and the project developers have to interact with this office only.