

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 07.03.2011

ANSWERED ON

ABANDONING OF LOHARINAG PALA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT .

1222

Shri A. Elavarasan

Will the Minister of COALPOWER be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether NTPC has sought a review of Government's decision to shut down its Loharinag Pala Hydroelectric Project in Uttarakhand;
- (b) whether NTPC has already spent `700 crores and made financial commitments worth crores of rupees and even negotiating with Qatar for importing gas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is a fact that this project was shut down after protests by local groups pointing that the plant would reduce flow of Bhagirathi River but the Ganga River Basin Authority's study have pointed out that the project would instead raise the water flow; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by Government to complete the project?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) :No, Sir.

(b) & (c) :NTPC has incurred `727.94 crores upto 30.09.2010 towards construction of the Loharinag Pala hydro-electric project. NTPC had awarded all contracts for construction of the project at the time of the decision of discontinuance of the project. The committed expenditure is approximately `1982 crores including the above.

NTPC is engaged in consultation with various companies in Qatar for procurement of gas.

(d) :The Hon`ble High Court of Uttarakhand vide orders dated 18.05.2009 in the Writ Petition Nos. 15 of 2009 and 532 of 2008 had directed the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) to decide the entire issue relating to the three hydro-electric projects namely, Loharinag Pala, Pala Maneri and Bhaironghati, i.e. whether to continue with them or not.

The issue was discussed in the meeting of NGRBA on 01.11.2010 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister. The following decision was taken:

`Loharinag Pala, Pala Maneri and Bhaironghati hydro-electric power projects on Bhagirathi may be discontinued`.