

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.794
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

VIRTUAL COURTS IN TRIBUNALS

794 **SHRI P. WILSON:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the non-functioning of Virtual Courts in Tribunals such as APTEL and CERC severely affect the stakeholders, if so, the reasons for delay in implementing Virtual Courts in Tribunals and details thereof;
- (b) reasons for not appointed as members in CERC representatives from Southern States;
- (c) whether Government has considered the TANGEDCO request to allocate 100 per cent electricity to Tamil Nadu from upcoming units in Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plants (KNPP), if so, details thereof; and
- (d) if not, reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a): In Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), e-filing was implemented in April, 2016, and e-hearing was implemented in June, 2017. Public hearings are generally conducted online in CERC. In Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) virtual hearing was conducted during COVID period. For proper functioning of virtual hearing, video conferencing/hybrid facilities have been recently set up in APTEL.

(b): Selection of Chairperson/Member of CERC is done under the provisions of Electricity Act, 2003. There is no provision in the Electricity Act, 2003 for making appointment of Chairperson/Member on the basis of geographical area.

(c) & (d) : Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) had requested Ministry of Power to allocate 100% power from Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) Unit-3&4 of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL). The request was examined in Ministry of Power (MoP) in accordance with the extant MoP Power Allocation Guideline dated 17.01.2011 which states that 50% of power will be allocated to 'Home State', 15% power will remain as unallocated quota at the disposal of Gol and remaining 35% will be allotted to other constituents (except 'Home State') of the particular region on the basis of extant guidelines on allocation of Power.

Since, the request of TANGEDCO to allocate 100% of power from KNPP Unit-3&4 of NPCIL was not in line with the provisions of MoP Power Allocation guideline, it was not acceded to by MoP.
