

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1472
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2003
HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECTS IN KERALA
P. RAJENDRAN

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pooyamkutty Hydroelectric power project submitted by the Government of Kerala is under consideration of Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details including the year of submission and status of this project as on date;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken any decision on Pooyamkutty project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Tropical Botanical Garden Research Institute (TBGRI) has submitted the Environmental impact assessment report of the above project; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (d) : The Puyankutty Hydro-electric Project (2x120 MW) was cleared by the Central Electricity Authority in January, 1984 for an estimated cost of Rs.250 crore. The Project was also sanctioned by the Planning Commission in August, 1986 subject to clearance to the project from the forest angle. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) rejected the proposal in January, 1991 as the project was located in the prime forest area of the Western Ghats. The Project was reviewed by Ministry of Environment and Forests again in 1996 and was rejected by them on the ground of 'adverse ecological impact'. On recommendations of an Expert Committee constituted for in depth analysis of the Project, the State Government had been asked to carry out studies pertaining to

- (i) Environment Impact Assessment,
- (ii) Social Impact Assessment,
- (iii) Social and Environmental cost benefit analysis; and
- (iv) Engineering Evaluation.

(e) & (f) : The Tropical Botanical Garden Research Institute (TBGRI) at Palode was entrusted with the task of assessment of the ecologically sustainable optimum submergence level. TBGRI carried out the studies and submitted its report to Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) in July, 2003. As informed by KSEB, based on the reports submitted, the Engineering Evaluation, Social Impact Assessment and Social and Environmental Cost Benefit Analysis will require recasting. The Detailed Project Report would also need to be modified by KSEB in view of the change in project components. Forest clearance would be considered by the MOEF after the above formalities are completed by KSEB/State Government.