

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
POWER  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:500  
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2006  
COAL BASED POWER PLANT AT MAUDA NAGPUR  
Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar

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

- (a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation had proposed the setting up of a Coal based Power Plant at Mauda, Nagpur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether NTPC has failed to prepare and submit a feasibility report in this regard;
- (d) if so, the reasons for the delay in submission of feasibility report; and
- (e) the steps being taken to expedite the same?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE )

(a) to (e) : In the course of identification of power projects for National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) capacity addition programme, a site near Mauda was identified in May 2001 as one of the prospective sites in Nagpur district of Maharashtra. The work for various site-specific studies was undertaken by NTPC in order to prepare the Feasibility Report and establish techno-economic viability of the project.

The site was identified considering its proximity to coalmines of Western Coalfields Ltd. about 150 Kms. away and water from Gosikhurd Reservoir, which was under construction. The mines identified for supply of coal to the project in Wardha Valley Coal fields were of very small capacities and scattered over a large area. Therefore, Standing linkage Committee (Long Term) accorded linkage of coal for the project from Ib Valley of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) in Orissa, located about 600 Kms away. Consequently, the cost of coal transportation works out to be about Rs.585 per tonne, resulting in increase of the cost of power by about 45 Paise / kWh.

Thus, economic ranking of Mauda Thermal Power Project does not compare favourably with NTPC's proposed pit-head based integrated mega power project in Raigarh, district of Chhattisgarh with a capacity of 3000 – 4000 MW for meeting the power requirement of the Western Region beneficiaries including Maharashtra. The integrated power project in Chhattisgarh shall have assured fuel availability, no burden on Railways network and much lower coal transportation cost. Further, Mauda being a rail fed project, would require elaborate coal handling plant and coal stockyard loading to higher project cost. Hence, it is felt that setting up Mauda Power Plant would neither be economically viable nor in the interest of the state of Maharashtra as the cost of power generated from the plant would be higher.

In view of the above constraints, preparation of Feasibility Report could not be undertaken.