

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4356
ANSWERED ON:19.05.2006
FREE POWER FROM THERMAL POWER PLANTS
Mohale Shri Punnulal

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Chhattisgarh to provide them 12% free power from the Thermal Power Plants to be set up in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Union Government has assessed the environmental and economic loss to be accrued on account of setting up of Thermal Power Projects in the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the remedial steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) : Government of Chhattisgarh had requested for allocation of 12% free power in the context of upcoming mega thermal power plant in the State by NTPC, in line with Central Government's policy for 12% free power from central sector hydel projects to the concerned State(s).

(b) : Government of Chhattisgarh was informed that under the prevailing policy dispensation there is no scope for provision of free power to the home state from Central Sector Thermal Power Projects.

(c) to (e) : Issues regarding environmental impact and socio-economic aspects are fully addressed before setting up a thermal power plant in any State. Thermal power plants are proposed to be set up in Chhattisgarh keeping in view the availability of coal in the State. The environmental impact by thermal power plant is assessed during Environmental Impact Studies which are conducted for all the thermal power plants. The environment and forest clearance is obtained from various environmental agencies like State Pollution Board and Ministry of Environment & Forests before starting construction of the project. There is no economic loss on account of setting up of thermal power projects in the State. In fact, the State earns revenue in the form of royalty on coal produced for thermal power projects. Besides, there is all round economic development of the State due to requirement of various ancillary units to cater to the thermal power plants.

(f) : To mitigate the environmental impact, various environmental safeguards like installation of efficient electro static precipitators, tall stacks, dry ash collection system, effluent treatment system, etc., are taken during implementation of the projects to meet the emission and air quality norms of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The rehabilitation and re-settlement (R&R) issues are resolved as per the relevant government policies.