

an>

Title: Need to make arrangement of railway rakes for carrying coal from Talcher to Vallur plant in North Chennai.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): I wish to draw the attention of the House to a very important problem being faced by one of the thermal power plants at Vallur in North Chennai, which is under operation and producing 1,500 MW of power.

Madam Speaker, NTPC Tamil Nadu Energy Company Limited (NTECL) is a joint venture company of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited and NTPC, which is a Central Public Sector Undertaking. NTECL Power Plant at Vallur in North Chennai has three units, each producing 500 MW of electricity. All the three units had started commercial operations. Tamil Nadu has been allocated about 1,045 MW out of 1,500 MW from this Power Plant. Unfortunately, due to shortage of coal supply to this power plant, which is due to non-availability of railway rakes, one of the three units of Vallur Power Plant is always shut down. Though the plant is capable of producing 1,500 MW, the generation is restricted due to short supply of coal from Mahanadi Coalfields, Talcher, Odisha. This is attributed to the limited or non-availability of empty railway rakes to carry coal from the Talcher Coal Mines. Augmentation of coal supply to NTECL, Vallur Thermal Power Plant would greatly help the State of Tamil Nadu to meet the power demand of the State during the peak summer season.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Railways to personally intervene in the matter and instruct the officials concerned so that adequate supply of railway rakes is arranged and made available for carrying coal from Talcher to Vallur Plant in North Chennai, which will ensure production of maximum power to meet the energy demand of our State.