

Farakka Supper Thermal Power Project, a unit of the National Thermal Power Corporation, is heading towards a financial disaster;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to save this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There is no financial crisis in regard to the Farakka Super Thermal Power Project of the NTPC. The project is facing temporary constraints such as delays in the completion of the transmission system for evacuation of power and non-payment of dues by the beneficiary States. The Eastern Regional Electricity Board has been asked to monitor the supply of power from the project to the State Electricity Boards etc. who have also been advised expedite clearance of the outstanding dues and to open Letters of Credit in favour of the NTPC.

Letters of Intent issued for West Bengal

961. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of letters of intent issued for West Bengal during the period from 1986 to 1988 (till 30 June, 1988) and the stage of their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): 99 letters of intent have been issued during the period 1st January '86 to 30th June, 88 for setting up of industries in West Bengal.

Under the existing procedure, a letter of intent is granted with an initial validity period of three of years to enable the entrepreneur

to take effective steps for the implementation of the project. After the entrepreneur has taken all effective steps and fulfilled the conditions of the letter of intent, the same is converted into an industrial licence. Nine out of the above mentioned 99 letters of intent have already been converted into industrial licences.

Bakreswar Thermal Power Project

962. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:
KUMARI MAMATA BANER-
JEE:
SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the latest position regarding the clearance of 690 MW Bakreswar Thermal Power Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): The proposed Bakreswar Thermal Power Project (3 x 210 MW) has been techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The Planning Commission have accepted, 'in principle', the feasibility of the project subject to adequate financial provision being made in the State Plan and clearance being obtained from the forestry angle in regard to acquisition of land required for the ash disposal system.

The State Government were authorised to start work on infrastructure development with the available funds. The possibility of availing external assistance for the project is also being explored.

Invested Capital of Twenty Big Business Houses

963. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state: