

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2238
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005
MPCB NOTICE TO TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Tarapur Atomic Power Station(TAPS) has been served with a show cause notice by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board(MPCB) ;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Tarapur Atomic Power Station has submitted its reply to the said notice;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) has four units. Units 1&2 are in operation since the year 1969. Unit 4 has commenced operation in September 2005 and unit 3 is presently under construction and is expected to be completed in the year 2006-07. The Central Government Water Cess Act 1977 provides for payment of cess to the State Pollution Control Boards on behalf of Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF) for the water used by the industries in the respective States. Nuclear Power Stations were, however, exempted from the payment of the cess. This Act was amended and exemption provided to nuclear power stations in the original Act was withdrawn from May 2003. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), while processing TAPP-4 application for `Consent To Operate`, issued a notice for non- payment of water cess from April 1983 to July 2004 in respect of TAPS-units 1 & 2.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir. The Tarapur Atomic Power Station 1 & 2 had sent a reply to MPCB vide their letter dated 26.9.05 clarifying the position. Further, TAPS-1&2 have paid the dues on account of water cess to MPCB for the period from May 2003 (date of applicability of the amended Act) to July 2005. MPCB have also issued `Consent to Operate` in respect of TAPS-unit 4.

(e) A proposal has been sent by the Department of Atomic Energy to the Ministry of Environment & Forests for grant of exemption from the levy of water cess. An appeal has also been filed with the Appellate Committee of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board against the decision of the MPCB to levy water cess from April 1983 to April 2003.