

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3436
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2010
HYDRO POWER PROJECTS IN UTTARAKHAND
Basavaraj Shri Gangasandra Siddappa

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the work on three hydro power projects at Lohari Nagpala, Pala Maneri and Bhaironghati in Uttarakhand on the Bhagirathi river lay suspended on religious and environmental grounds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Centre had sent a high power committee to assess various issues concerning the revival of these projects;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any further delay in the clearance of these projects would result in apart from time overrun, escalation in project cost by 10 to 12 percent; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) & (b): The requisite details of all the three projects are as follows:

(i) Loharinagpala HE Project (4x150=600MW): The Loharinagpala HE Project in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand is under execution by NTPC. The project was accorded concurrence by Central Electricity Authority on 11.08.2004 at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,417.78 crs., at March, 2004 price level. The environment and forest clearances were accorded on 8.2.2005. The investment approval was given in June 2006 and the work on the project commenced in July, 2006. The expenditure incurred so far is about Rs. 510.00 crs. The project works are under suspension w.e.f 20.2.2009 due to agitation by environmentalist. The Government has directed NTPC to stop the works at the project site.

(ii) Pala Maneri HE Project (4x120=480MW): The Pala Maneri HE Project in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand is under implementation by Uttaranchal Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (UJVNL). The project was accorded concurrence by Central Electricity Authority on 23.02.2007 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,922.80 crs., at December, 2006 price level. The works on the project are yet to be taken up.

(iii) Bhaironghati H.E. Project (3x127 = 381 MW): The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Bhaironghati H.E. Project Uttaranchal Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (UJVNL) has been returned on 12.02.2008 due to non tie-up of essential inputs/ clearance and insufficient Geological Investigations.

(c) & (d): The Government has constituted National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) to whom the matter has been referred for a decision on all the three aforesaid projects. Under the directions of NGRBA, a site visit of all the three projects was done by a high powered team of Secretary (Environment & Forests), Secretary (Power), etc. Based on the site visit and interaction held with locals, public representatives and district authorities, a report has recently been submitted by the team to NGRBA.

(e) & (f): Out of the above three projects, the works were in progress only on Lohari Nagpala H.E. Project. Till date, the expenditure incurred on the project is about Rs. 510.00 crs. Any further delay in decision regarding resumption of the works on the project would result in increase in the project cost apart from time over-run.