

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
POWER  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5764  
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2010  
CONSTRUCTION WORKS ON HYDRO POWER PROJECTS  
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**Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken a decision to stall the construction work on the ongoing and proposed hydro power projects on several major rivers in the country including the Ganga;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the names of hydro power projects which have been affected by the said decision; and
- (d) the alternative steps being taken by the Government to meet the demand of power in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) : The construction of Lohari Nagpala Hydro-electric Project(HEP) (4X150=600 MW), being executed by NTPC Limited in the State of Uttarakhand has been stopped by the Government since 20th February, 2009 due to environmental related issues. No other hydro-electric project under construction has been stalled by the Central Government in the country.

Pursuant to the order of the Hon`ble High Court, Nainital in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), the matter regarding Lohari Nagpala HEP was referred to the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA). In the first meeting of the NGRBA held on 5.10.2009, it was decided that issues regarding Lohari Nagpala HEP and proposed Pala Maneri H.E. Project (4x120 = 480 MW) and Bhaironghati H.E. Project (3x127 = 381 MW) in the upper reaches of river Bhagirathi would be examined by Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Secretary, Ministry of Power and a report to be submitted to the NGRBA. Under the directions of NGRBA, a site visit of all the three projects was done by a high powered team including 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.

- (d) : The following measures have been taken / are being taken by the Government to meet the demand of power in the country:-
- (i) Quantum jump in capacity additions during the 11th Plan as compared to previous Plans.
  - (ii) Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of the on-going generation projects.
  - (iii) Coordinated operation and maintenance of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas based power stations to optimally utilize the existing generation capacity.
  - (iv) Thrust to import of coal by the power utilities to meet the shortfall in coal supplies to thermal power stations from indigenous sources.
  - (v) Allocation of gas from KG Basin (D6) for gas based power stations in the country.
  - (vi) Tapping of surplus power from captive power plants.
  - (vii) Development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each to reap benefits of economies of scale.
  - (viii) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units.
  - (ix) Strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution network through Acceleration Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) as a major step towards loss reduction.