

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5276
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2010
ATHIRAPPALLY HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECT
Biju Shri P. K.;Dhanaplan Shri K. P.;Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the Athirappally hydroelectric power project proposed to be set up in Kerala;
- (b) whether the Government has made any assessment/feasibility study for the project;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) : Athirappally Hydro Electric Project located in Kerala is a State Sector Project of Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB). Techno-Economic Clearance for this project was accorded by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 31.03.2005 with an installed capacity of 163 MW. The forest and environment clearances to the project were accorded on 16.12.1999 and 20.01.1998 respectively by Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF).

However, the environmental clearance of the project has been a subject matter of litigation at various fora including Hon`ble High Court of Kerala since last many years. Recently a show cause notice was issued by MOEF to KSEB on 04.01.2010 with respect to revoking the environmental clearance due to issues relating to effect on Tribals and Bio-diversity. KSEB made presentation to Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC) on 20.03.2010. EAC, however, has reserved its decision till KSEB/Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (TRBGRl) substantiate their claim that there will be no change in Bio-diversity pattern from the published reports including recent study undertaken by Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI).

The execution of the project is held up due to above reasons.