

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3052
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2011
HYDRO POWER PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any meeting on hydro power projects of North-East was held recently;
- (b) if so, the discussions held and the decisions arrived therein; and
- (c) the demands raised by the States in the meeting along with the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) to (c) : The third meeting of the Task Force on Hydro Project Development was held under the Chairmanship of Hon`ble Minister of Power on 29.10.2010 in New Delhi. In the meeting issues relating to various aspects of hydro power development in the country including the North East were discussed. Hydro power rich states including the North Eastern States participated in the meeting. The decision taken in the meeting is given below:-

(i) Expeditious and time bound action would be taken by the State Governments, public utilities, concerned Central Ministries/Agencies, etc. for fixing each inter-mediate milestones including Survey and Investigation works, submission of Detailed Project Report (DPR), concurrence of DPRs, award of projects by the State, approval of Terms of Reference (ToR) for Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study, finalisation of EIA study, Environment and Forest clearance, etc. for accelerated development of Hydro-electric projects.

(ii) Timely advance action for hydel capacity addition of 20,000 MW in the 12th Plan would be taken by the States particularly the Himalayan States of Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and the North Eastern States.

(iii) As recommended by Inter Ministerial Group (IMG), sub-basin wise environment impact assessment studies would be taken up for major tributaries of Brahmaputra. Central Water Commission (CWC) would conduct studies for Subansiri and Siang sub-basins in consultation with Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF). TOR will be provided by MOEF and these studies would be completed expeditiously. Studies in other sub-basins would also be taken up subsequently by CWC and other identified agencies. Pending completion of these studies, Central and State agencies would continue to appraise new hydro-electric projects with a capacity of 20,000 MW for yielding benefits during 12th Plan for grant of all the necessary statutory and non-statutory clearances on merit as per extant procedure. Projects of strategic importance and those in the advanced stages in the pipeline would be accorded priority. In the meanwhile, rapid environment impact assessment studies for sub-basins of the major tributaries of Brahmaputra would also be completed in 6-9 months.

(iv) In view of high risk and uncertainties of hydel projects particularly storage projects arising out of adverse geological surprises, delays in land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) issues, law and order problems, natural calamities etc., and as recommended by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), it was resolved that cost plus tariff regime may be continued for public as well as private sector large- sized hydro power projects. In the meanwhile, studies would be conducted to work out the modalities for adoption of tariff based competitive bidding regime even for large hydel projects. It was also resolved that a level playing field would be provided to public sector hydro projects by allowing merchant sale up to a maximum of 40% of the saleable energy as provided in the New Hydro Power Policy 2008.

(v) An Inter-Ministerial Committee would be constituted under the Chairmanship of Member (Energy), Planning Commission, consisting of officers of Ministry of Power, MoEF, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Rural Development, Planning Commission, CEA and CWC to examine and resolve issues impeding the rapid development of HEPs including grant of clearances by the governmental agencies. This Committee would make recommendations for accelerated development of HEPs and the same would be discussed in the next meeting of the Task Force.