

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:697
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011
TEESTA HYDRO POWER PROJECT
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether strong earthquake hit the Teesta Stage III hydro project in Sikkim in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the number of persons of the project lost their lives and extent of damage caused to the project;
- (c) whether compensation as per the rule has been provided to the victims working in the project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the future strategy chalked out by Government to handle such natural calamities in hydro power projects in the country?

Answer

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

(a): Teesta Stage-III Hydro-electric Project (1200 MW), Sikkim, being constructed by M/s. TeestaUrja Limited was affected due to the earthquake that hit Sikkim on 18th September, 2011.

(b): M/s. TeestaUrja Limited has informed that the total death toll of employees due to the earthquake at the Project Site in the Project stood at 19 (including the spouse of one employee) and 1 employee is still reported missing. They have also informed that project components are not severely impacted, however, detailed assessment will depend upon report by the Experts. Further, site access roads within the Project area, office buildings, workshops, equipment and colonies have been badly damaged due to the earthquake at various locations.

(c) & (d): The project developer has informed that the Company, its consultants and its contractors had covered all the labour under the Workmen Compensation as per Labour Laws and all the staff had been covered under Group Accident Policy and the claims would be settled by the respective Insurance Companies. In addition to this, the Company has offered a compensation of Rs.5 Lakhas ex-gratia to the kin of the deceased and contributed an amount of Rs. 5 Crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of Sikkim.

(e): National Disaster Management Authority has been created under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 to manage and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management Plan in India. Regarding Disaster Management Plan for Power Sector, a document titled 'Crisis & Disaster Management Plan for Power Sector' was brought out by Central Electricity Authority, under Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, in July, 2004. This document deals with the various events, which may cause crisis or disasters in the power sector, preventive measures which need to be adopted to avoid any crisis/disaster, ways and means to tackle a crisis/disaster, if it occurs in spite of preventive measures. It outlines a hierarchical set up of crisis/disaster management at various levels for effectively and efficiently dealing with crisis and disasters.