

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
POWER  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:312  
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009  
MEGA THERMAL POWER PLANTS  
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

**Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has permitted foreign companies to build, own and operate mega thermal power plants in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the safeguards measures taken by the Government in order to protect the interest of the country in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : As per the Electricity Act, 2003, thermal generation has been delicensed and concurrence of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is not required to set up thermal power plants including those in the private sector. Besides, 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permissible on the automatic route for the projects of power generation, transmission and distribution (except Atomic Energy).

(c) : In order to protect the interest of the country, developers of thermal power plants are required to obtain statutory clearances like environment & forest clearances and other clearances including civil aviation and defence clearance, wherever applicable, from concerned authorities. Further, State/Central Electricity Regulatory Commissions have been constituted for regulations of tariff for power projects.