

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4882
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2015
PRESENT STATUS OF AHEP
Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the Athirapally Hydro Electric Project (AHEP) in Kerala;
- (b) whether there have been any environmental factors that impede the implementation of AHEP; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) : Athirapally (Athirappilly) Hydro Electric Project (AHEP) 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.

(b) & (c) : On receipt of representations regarding threat to the habitation of primitive Kadar Tribes, and biodiversity of the region, a show cause notice was issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests & Climate Change to Kerala State Electricity Board (project proponents) under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

In view of the ecological sensitivity of the area, the project was earlier referred to Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) under Prof. Gadgil and later to the High Level Working Group (HLWG) constituted under Dr. K. Kasturirangan to implement the WGEEP Report.

HLWG recommended the revaluation of the Project in terms of generation of energy, plant load factor and viability against the loss of local population of some species in the given circumstances of increased viability due to unpredictable monsoon. The Project proponents have not approached the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change vis-a-vis the recommendations of HLWG.