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Title : Need to expedite completion of the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, over the years, the demand for power had increased manifold but the supply is not adequate. Many of the States in the country are suffering from acute power shortage. The State of Tamil Nadu is reeling under severe power cuts and the shortage is around 1200 MW. This has affected domestic, industrial and agricultural operations.

Anticipating this kind of scenario, the Union Government had conceived the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Project. An inter-Governmental Agreement was signed on November 20, 1988 between the Government of India and erstwhile Soviet Union. However, the project remained mid-way after the post 1991 Soviet Union break-up.

Presently, two reactors are under construction. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) expects that the first unit when operational, can sell power at less than Rs. 2.50 per unit. In 2008 negotiations on building additional six reactors at the site began. It is expected that the capacity of each reactor will be 1000 MW.

The first of the units was expected to commence operations in December 2007 and the second in December 2008. However, there has been much delay mainly on account of equipment supplies from Russia. Finally, the date of

* Treated as laid on the Table.

commissioning of the first unit was rescheduled for December 2009 and the second one around March 2010. The delay in the commissioning of the Koodankulam Project is one of the main reasons for the severe power shortage of over 1000 MW in Tamil Nadu.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps for the timely completion of the Koodankulam Project in Tamil Nadu.