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Title: Need for no objection certificate from Ministry of Defence for setting up of a Chimney for 660 mw State thermal power plant in Maharashtra.

SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE (NASHIK): Hon. Speaker Madam, I want to raise the issue of NOC from the Ministry of Defence for a 280-metre height chimney of 660 MW thermal power plant at Eklahare in Nashik pending since last five years.

Hon. Madam, MAHAGENCO State Generation Power Company has approved a 660 MW thermal power plant at Eklahare in Nashik on 29th December, 2011.

As per the project design a 280-metre height chimney was required and as there is a Defence airfield nearby, MAHAGENCO had applied for NOC for the 280-metre height chimney.

The CATTs, that is, the Defence airfield replied that they cannot give NOC because as per the draft notification SO84 (E), above 150-metre height no structure is permissible up to 15 kilometres as the funnel area is required. But as per the existing Notification SO84(E) 300-metre height structure can be permitted. All the decisions are taken on the basis of existing Notification and not on the basis of draft notification. So, they would have given NOC in January, 2010 when they had applied. Also, only helicopter practices are going on in the airfield which does not require funnel area.

Since the last five years, the project is pending for the NOC of 280-metre height chimney. This power project is in national interest and 10,000-12,000 families depend on this project. Power generation will help to balance the transmission grid in State as no other huge project is in North Maharashtra.

Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I request the Defence Ministry to ask clarification from the Civil Aviation Department as to what type of practice goes on in the Defence airfield in Nashik and take appropriate action or declare one kilometre no flying zone around the chimney and give the NOC so that the issue of height clearance as well as safety of aviation can be resolved. Thank you, Madam.