

Arunachal Pradesh Minister submit proposal to Centre for power plant for creating jobs

ITANAGAR, July 8: Arunachal Pradesh Power and NCER Minister T N Thongdok has advocated for submitting a proposal to the union ministry of coals and mines immediately for setting up a coal-pit thermal power plant at Kharsang in Changlang district. Addressing a joint meeting convened by him at his office here yesterday to discuss issues related to execution of 10 MW gas-based power project at Kumchai and thermal power plant at Kharsang, the minister directed the power commissioner to prepare a DPR in consultation with the department of geology and mines, an official communiqué informed today.

Thongdok in the meeting informed that the union minister of State for Power, Mines etc had shown keen interest in setting up of thermal power plants wherever coal is available during the conference held on June 16 –17 last at Goa.

The meeting was also attended by Minister Mines Kamlung Mossang, Power Parliamentary Secretary Tapuk Taku, power commissioner and other senior officers of geology & mines department and Oil India Ltd headed by A K Baruah, DGM & HoD (field engineering).

The IOL officials gave a power point presentation on the proposed 10 MW gas based power project.

At present gas available is about 30,000 SCMD from the existing well whereas they would require 55,000 SCMD for the proposed project. The construction period of the proposed project would be one year and they would require taking up drilling of three more wells to supplement the present availability of gas by another 25,000 SCMD, which is the actual requirement for the project, the officials said in the meeting.

They further apprised that the mining lease permission and forest clearance issued by the state government for the present wells have already been expired and requested the state government to issue fresh mining lease permission and forest clearance.

It was decided in the meeting that the mines minister would initiate issue of fresh mining lease license and the Oil India should take up with the PCCF for issue of forest clearance on priority.

The foundation stone of the proposed 10 MW gas based power project at Kumchai and nursing school at Namsai was laid at Itanagar by former union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Veerappa Moily as a CSR scheme.

However, the Oil India Ltd has desired for signing a MoU with the state government for purchase of power from the project.

As there was no provision for employment of local Arunachalees and royalty to the state government in the MoU proposed by the Oil India, Thongdok pointed out that since the two projects were declared as CSR schemes of Oil India Ltd to Arunachal Pradesh, the schemes should have been owned by the state government and therefore question of purchase of power do not arise.

Also the royalty of the gas to be utilized for the power plant should be paid to the state, Thongdok said and suggested that the state government would take up the issue with the union Ministry of Coal and Mines for awarding the project under CSR scheme to Arunachal Pradesh as declared by the then Union Minister (P&NG) and likewise the Oil India also should take up at their own level.

Mossang while pointing out that recruitment of technical/non-technical staff was being conducted in Assam desired that such recruitments for the oil fields in the Arunachal Pradesh should be conducted in the state to give benefits to the local unemployed youths, the communiqué added.