

Building of a coal power station at Norochcholai

This is in reference to the statement made by the Minister of Christian and Parliamentary Affairs, on the view of the Government in building a coal power station at Norochcholai. The following will give the Government a correct perspective with regards to the building of this important coal power station that is urgently required, if a power crises and an economic disaster is to be avoided.

Requirement to unload coal at Trincomalee.

The very requirement to unload coal at Trincomalee, is confirmation that the so called site study made by the CEB and their consultants at an ridiculous cost of over 500 million rupees in selecting Norochcholai for the building of this important coal power station has been made on flawed parameters and on wrong information as coal cannot be obtained at site to operate the proposed power station. Hence the building of piers and harbours as discussed and argued by the CEB for years, are utter nonsense

If coal is to be unloaded at Trincomalee why not build the power station at Trincomalee as well? Why get involved with building rail tracks at an added expense and get involved in maintaining rail lines at a time when the existing rail lines cannot be maintained by the SLR as the government has no money.

The argument that would be given to you by the CEB as to why a Coal Power Station should not be built at Trincomalee is that transmission lines from Trincomalee would be subjected to a terrorist attack and hence the requirement to build the power station at Norochcholai. If the terrorists will destroy a power line will they spare a railway line?

Colossal sums of money from Japan.

It is a myth that the Japanese government has given money for building a coal power station at Norochcholai. It is true that it is the wish of the CEB to enchant the Finance Ministry to go begging for funds to Japan so that the CEB would be able to proceed with building this power station under their control. This will enable a few selected engineers within the CEB to benefit immensely, by manipulating tender awards to foreign contractors of their choice.

Can you as a Member of Parliament and a member of the Cabinet provide said to have been obtained from Japan, such as:

1. Which institution in Japan made available the funds needed to build a power station at Norochcholai?

2. What is the quantity of funds given?

3. Under what credit line and the terms and conditions credit was obtained?

4. Why such funds were not made available during the past UNF Government and whether funds were only extended to the present UPFA Government?

Seeking, the answers to the above would enlighten you to the true position with regards to the commitment by the CEB to build this much needed coal power station.

Sir, you would be better advised to check upon such facts, prior to being led by the CEB and the Ministry of Power and Energy into believing and making public statements that the Bishop of Chilaw and the Holy St. Anne's Shrine at Talawila is the problem in building a coal power station that would solve the perpetual power crises that plague the nation.

There is no requirement to create a "HAHO" at MAHO by building new rail lines to transport coal to Norochcholai. What has to be done is to transport the coal power station to a proper site in the south of the island, to the Hambantota district where there are many suitable sites at which imported coal could be unloaded from ship and stored next to the power station.

Let us use what is called common sense is cheaper to transport electricity through transmission lines than to transport coal on rail lines.

Build a coal power station at a proper site at an affordable cost without unwanted expenses building new rail lines and extending the seashore and filling the area with sand. Leave the Holy Shrine at Talawila, in the hands of the Lord and leave the Holy Bishop of Chilaw in peace by moving the construction of this power station to a cheaper site in Hambantota.

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