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The coal power plant issue

The Catholic Church through the Bishop has stated in the daily media that they were against the construction of the Coal Power Plant at Norochcholai as this will be a threat to the Church at Talawila and the fishermen and the farmers at Kalpitya. This is the most ridiculous if not ludicrous stand the Catholic Church could take, when the CEB has categorically stated there is absolutely no harm to the church, which is more than 5 Km from the proposed site to the south, and also the Central Environmental Authority has agreed that there is no environmental, ecological or any other harmful effects that could be caused by the erection of the Coal Plant.

The Catholic Church should open their eyes and figure out that this is not the first instance of a Coal Plant being erected anywhere in the world.

There are numerous such plants all over specially in the developed world and in Italy and Catholic States, where there are churches by the dozen. And nowhere have these Coal Plants being the cause for concern with emission of coal dust of any other impurities.

The CEB insists that the best variety of coal would be used thus reducing or minimising pollution from the Plant.

How can the minority religionists hold whole country at ransom on an important issue like this do not these people realise that we are imminently faced with a long drawn out drought which has dried up most of the reservoirs producing Hydro

Electricity and the Thermal Plants using imported fossil fuel are daily going up in price which is eroding the poverty stricken economy of our country. When the immediate solution is Coal power which is comparatively cheaper, these people are clamouring against it. When the Coal Power Plant was first raised some objected to the siting at Trinco, next they objected to the Mawella site now they are objecting to the present site.

As a result the project has got delayed by over 5 years and it had cost a tidy sum to prepare the feasibility reports for the three sites.

This plant would be the beginning and more such plants would be required with the demand for power and the achievement of sustainable development. Maybe in 25 or 50 years hence will be better options with the improvement of Technology. But till that time the most reliable, certain and cheaper mode of power would be Coal Power.

The Government should realise its priorities, that is whether more important is the protection of the environment, when there is no such cause for concern or whether the country needs sustainable power in the future.

Obviously the hidden hand of the oil lobby is evidently behind this issue and are using the Catholics and some misguided environmentalists as pawns to prevent the Coal Power Project.

G. S. HEMARATNE
Nugegoda