

# Norochcholai: Ten questions for the government

Further to my previous letter dated 2nd April'02 with regards to the prudent action taken by the Prime Minister to appoint a three member committee to probe the massive expenditure of Rs. 900 Million of which 500 Million has been spent on the so called "Site Studies" at Norochcholai, I request answers to the following questions which will enlighten the public with this misdeed.

- On selecting a Consultant to carry out the so called "Site Study" why did the CEB deviate from the standard practice of advertising in the newspapers calling for such consultancy services?

- Who is the Officer at the CEB responsible for limiting the number of Consultants and who prepared a short list of selected consultants of their choice?

- Who decided to award this Consultancy Study to the Swiss Consultants "Electrowatt" of Switzerland?

- Under the criteria of short listing consultants did the CEB require consultants to have a past proven record of providing consultancy services for building of coal power station?

- How many coal power station projects had the selected consultant "Electrowatt" been involved in throughout the world prior to being engaged to conduct the so called "Site Study" at Norochcholai?

- If this consultant was capable of conducting the so-called site study what was the requirement to engage PCI-Pacific Consultant International from Japan and Sandwell Inc. Canada?

- How many engineers from the CEB were engaged in this consultancy?

- Why did the CEB leave out the engineers who are qualified abroad on Coal Technology from these studies?

- Was any of these engineers conversant with Coal Power Station and its associated technology?

- How many of these engineers travelled abroad under this consultancy study?

- To which countries did they travel and what was the cost of such paid holidays?

- Who was responsible to recommend such a 4.2-kilometer pier for unloading as has never been built in any other part of the world, to unload coal?

- Why did the CEB abandon such design after engaging and paying a consultant to design such a structure and why did they decide to replace with barges?

- Of the decision to use barges who was responsible for engaging a consultant from Denmark to comment upon the use of barges?

- How much was paid to the Consultant "Electrowatt"?

- How much was paid to the other consultants namely Pacific Consultant International in Japan, Sandwell Inc. Canada, Lanka Hydraulics Moratuwa, Engineering Consultants Ltd. Colombo and the Dutch Consultant Ramboll respectively?

- Were any other consultants or companies and persons engaged under this site study?

- Did the CEB engage any private institutions and past engineers of the CEB to promote the building of a coal plant at Norochcholai and if so how much were such persons/companies paid?

The answers to the above questions will enlighten the public as to the actions of the engineers who were engaged under the Norochcholai and as to how a colossal sum of Rs. 500 million has been spent in conducting so called site studies.

I kindly request the Prime Minister to have this committee find why selected engineers of the CEB insisted that the coal power station should be built at Norochcholai despite the President and the Hon. Prime Minister declaring during the Wayamba elections that they had independently decided not to construct the coal power station at Norochcholai.

I hope answers to the above questions will be revealed in due time to the public, through the investigations carried out by the newly appointed committee.

**D. H. Jayasekera  
Wattala**