

News_COP_2002-63.pdf

11/04/08
Daily News

Norochcholai Power Plant - who is responsible?

Five years ago I used to travel up to Thalawila frequently on business matters. Everytime I went there I saw on a roof of a house belongs to one W. Anthony Fernando a daily big panel looked like a solar power panel. I was curious to know why a simple man wanted to have solar power in his house. His answer was "No Sir. It is not a solar panel. It was installed by Coast Conservation Department to measure the

sea waves". But 3 years ago when I went there the panel was not on his roof. He said "Look sir, even they did not tell me the truth. Now only I know that it was something to do with this coal power (plant). They had put it there to study something. Now there is a protest. They (CEB) came in a hurry and removed it."

What do we understand by this. That the CEB had not been transparent at the

beginning. They had worked secretly. Had they spoken to the people in the area and to the parish priest Thalawila, this disaster would have been avoided.

The CEB had mishandled the whole affair. Hence they have to be blamed. The politicians or the Rev. Bishop are not to be blamed.

ALLAN G. S. PEIRIS
Kochchikade