

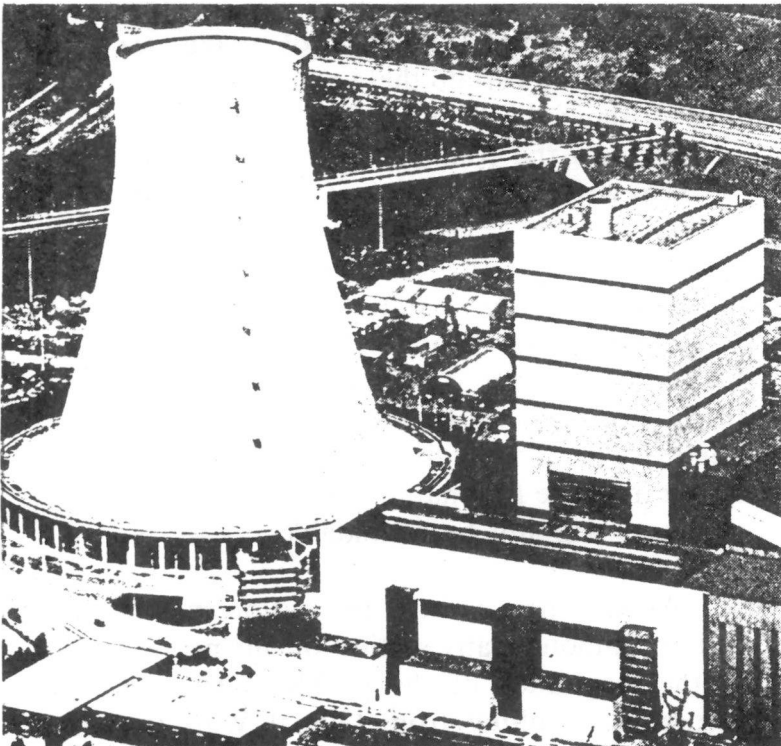
Coal-fired power project abandoned

His Excellency the President has directed the Ministry of Power & Energy to abandon the construction of a Coal-Fired Power Plant at Mawella in Weligama. The President has taken the decision in the light of representations made to him on the likely environmental costs of this project and the socio-economic benefits of harnessing other renewable sources of energy.

His Excellency has further directed that the Ministry of Power and Energy seeks viable alternative sources of energy to meet the future power demand. The Ministry of Power & Energy is at present actively engaged in investigating the possibilities of the utilisation of the following alternative renewable sources of energy:—

- a. Design and construction of new Hydro Projects;
- b. Optimising the exploitation of existing Hydro Power capacity;
- c. Introduction of Solar Projects;
- d. Mini-Hydro Power Projects;
- e. Small and medium Bio-gas Projects

In the field of hydro power, two large hydro power projects are already under investigation. The catchments and watersheds of all the existing Hydro Power Reservoirs will be expanded and fully reforested to ensure that water levels in reservoirs are stabilized for greater capacity utilization. The Ministry of Power and Energy has already completed two other studies of hydro-power projects. Additionally, the use of mini hydro-power systems in the hill country is being actively pursued. Wherever conditions permit, the viable utilisation of solar energy and biogas is also being pursued by the Ministry of Power & Energy.



Coal-Fired Power Plant