

## Himachal Pradesh defers decision on controversial power projects

The Himachal Pradesh cabinet Friday deferred a decision on two hydro-power projects awarded to Dutch company Brakel Corp that have been mired in allegations of corruption.

The Rs.65 billion (\$1.5 billion) Thopan-Powari and Jangi-Thopan hydro power projects in Kinnaur district were allotted to Brakel in 2006 by the then Congress government. Later, Reliance Energy moved the Himachal Pradesh High Court stating that the government had granted favours to Brakel in allotting the projects.

The state cabinet government had listed the issue for discussion Friday but deferred it till the court hearing July 4, official sources told IANS.

The court has directed the chief secretary to file an affidavit by July 4 clarifying the government's stand on the projects.

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