

Corporation of India Ltd. (POWERGRID) implements the evacuation of power from central generating stations to all beneficiary states across the country.

However, it is a fact that the total inter-regional transfer capacity is inadequate at present and is only 4000 MW in a total system of nearly 94,000 MW installed capacity. The reason for this low level of regional inter-connection is the process of evolution of electricity grids in the country from state to regional grids, and now on to the making of a national grid.

In addition to evacuation of power within the region from specific projects, inter-regional inter connectors have also been developed and more such inter-connections are being executed/planned. A 500 MW HVDC back to back link at Sasaram to interconnect Eastern and Northern Regions is under implementation and is expected to be commissioned by 2002. The following inter-regional links are planned for implementation over a period of 4 to 5 years:

- (i) Talcer-Kolar HVDC bipole link connecting Eastern and Southern Region.
- (ii) Rourkela (Eastern Region) — Raipur (Western Region) 400 KV AC line connecting Eastern and Western Grids.
- (iii) Purnea-Muzzafarpur-Gorakhpur-Lucknow 400 KV AC line. This will be a high capacity AC link between Eastern and Northern regions.

The Government is according high priority to optimum utilisation of power across the country.

Delay in T and D Projects

873. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the transmission and distribution projects have been delayed by Government while generation projects were given attention in the past few years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the privatisation of distribution is expected to reduce the transmission and distribution losses, which are as high as 50% in states including Delhi;

[8 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

- (d) if any proposal is pending with Government in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The lower investment in power transmission and distribution has primarily been on account of constraints in the availability of funds. The enactment of Electricity laws (Amendment) Act, 1998 (Act No. 22 of 1998) and the initiation of the reforms and restructuring in power sector, enabling investment from private sector in the field of transmission and distribution is expected to result in greater investment and efficiency in this area and in reduction of transmission and distribution losses in the states.

(d) and (e) The decision in respect of privatisation of distribution systems has to be taken by the appropriate agencies in the states.

Sale of NHPC to NTPC

874. SHRI DIPANKER MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Announcement of NTPC baffles PSUs" published in "Statesman" dated 17th November, 1999 regarding sale of NHPC to NTPC;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the news item 'Government gets NHPC, NTPC to send releases' appearing in "Indian Express" dated 19th November, 1999;

(c) if so, Governments reaction on the statement of Managing Director of NHPC and the press note released by NHPC;