

(d) whether Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages increase in power generation capacity by 78,577 MW by March 2012, from 1,45,000 MW installed capacity;

(e) if so, whether State power utilities have decided to cut down transmission losses by 2011-12; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in this regard, at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) The creation of National Electricity Fund (NEF) was announced in the Budget Speech 2008-09. In pursuance of announcement, Government had constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Power), Planning Commission to consider various aspects of establishing the NEF. The concept note on establishment of NEF has been circulated by Planning Commission. Ministry of Power is examining the concept note.

(d) A capacity addition target of 78,700 MW has been set for the 11th Five Year Plan. As on 31.03.2007, the installed capacity was 13329 MW. Thus, the installed capacity would be 2.11,029 MW by March, 2012.

(e) and (f) Prior to year 2001-02, utilities used to monitor Transmission & Distribution (T&D) losses. The concept of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss was introduced in 2001-02. AT&C loss captures not only the technical losses but also the theft, pilferages and commercial losses due to poor metering and billing and non-realization of dues. The following steps have been taken to check T&D losses:-

(i) The Government had launched APDRP in the year 2002-03 with the objective of encouraging reforms, reducing AT&C loss, improving quality of supply of power and improving consumer satisfaction. AT&C loss has come down in towns where APDRP has been implemented. Further, some of the utilities which adopted various interventions as envisaged under the programme have shown significant reduction in AT&C loss.

(ii) In the 11th Plan, the APDRP scheme has been restructured with revised terms and conditions as a Central Sector Scheme with emphasis on actual demonstrable performance in terms of sustained loss reduction. Establishment of reliable and automated system for sustained collection of accurate base line data and the adoption of Information Technology in the areas of energy accounting have been made necessary pre-conditions before sanctioning of any projects. The scheme aims to reduce AT & C losses to 15% by end of the programme.

(iii) Restructuring of State Electricity Boards is mandated under the Electricity Act, 2003.

(iv) For controlling of theft, punitive provisions are available under the Electricity Act, 2003. Special Courts are set up to deal with cases relating to theft of electricity.

Approval of power projects

1774. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any prior approval is required from the Central Electricity Authority for taking up power projects in the country;

(b) if so, whether any criteria has been decided by CEA;

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any changes have been made regarding the criteria; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the details of notifications, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) As per Electricity Act, 2003, concurrence of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is not required for setting up of thermal power projects. However, as per Section 8(1) of the Electricity Act, 2003, any generating company intending to set up a hydro generating station shall prepare and submit to the Central Electricity Authority for its concurrence, a scheme estimated to involve a capital expenditure exceeding such sum, as may be fixed by the Central Government, from time to time, by notification. The present capital expenditure limits for hydro electric schemes requiring CEA's concurrence are as follows:

1. Rs.2500 crore, provided that-

- (i) the scheme is included in the National Electric Plan (NEP) as notified by CEA and conforms to the capacity and type;
- (ii) the site for setting up the hydro generating station has been allocated through the transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by Central Government.

2. Rs.500 crore for any other scheme not covered by para (i) and (ii) above.

(d). No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Environment impact assessment of hydro-electric projects

1775. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed at the downstream of all the hydro-electric projects being executed by NHPC, NEEPCO or others for all the ongoing and new projects in pipeline, that are coming up in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) According to available information in respect of Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (2000 MW) being executed by NHPC, Environment Impact Assessment for an area of 7 km. downstream of dam site with respect to land use, *flora and fauna*, has been completed. However, the NHPC has appointed Guwahati University to study the downstream impact of the Project. This study is under progress. For Kameng Hydroelectric Project (600 MW) being executed by NEEPCO, Comprehensive Environment Studies of the Projects were carried out as per the guidelines of Ministry of Environment & Forest, wherein Environment Impact Assessment of Downstream was not specifically included.

In addition to the above projects, seven new Hydroelectric Project, all in Arunachal Pradesh, are in the pipeline for development. The details including present status are as under: