

(d) Following steps have been taken to ensure timely completion of the projects in the 11th Plan:

1. Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened to achieve targets by designating a nodal officer in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for each project. The nodal officers keep track of construction activities and make frequent visits to the power plant to have on the spot assessment of progress of work. The bottlenecks if any are identified and solutions thereof are decided in consultation with project authorities and executing agencies.
2. A Power Projects Monitoring Panel (PPMP), comprising of independent consultants has been constituted specifically for the purpose of field visit, review and reporting on the projects under implementation.
3. The progress of the projects is also reviewed intensively periodically at the highest level by the Central Electricity Authority and the Ministry of Power.
4. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is a major indigenous manufacturer for main plant equipment in Public Sector. BHEL has enhanced its capacity to deliver 10,000 MW of main plant equipment per annum, have put in place an action plan to enhance capacity to deliver 15,000 MW per annum by December, 2009 and may raise this capacity upto 20000 MW by 2011 depending upon the market demand.
5. A Joint Venture Agreement has been signed between NTPC Ltd. and BHEL to take up work related to Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) for power plants and other infrastructure projects.
6. M/s L&T has already formed a Joint Venture Company with MHI, Japan for manufacture of supercritical steam generator and steam turbine generators in India.
7. All stakeholders have been sensitized towards enlarging the vendor base so as to meet the Balance of Plants (BoP) requirements.
8. Pre-qualification requirement for super critical unit manufacturers has since been modified so as to qualify new Joint Venture between Indian company and the technology provider company.
9. Bulk ordering of 11 units of 660 MW each with supercritical technology with mandatory phased indigenous manufacturing Programme is also planned to promote indigenous manufacturing.
10. To overcome the shortage of skilled manpower, 'Adopt an ITI' initiative has been taken up.

Power crisis

1764.MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing severe power crisis;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that traffic signals in various cities are closed because of the power crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) There is an overall shortage of power in the country and in all the States both in terms of energy and peaking power. The shortages vary from State to State on month to month, day to day and hour to hour basis depending upon the demand and supply of power. The energy and peaking shortage in the country during 2009-10 (April to June, 2009) was 9.8 % and 12.3 % respectively.

The main reasons for shortage of power in the country are:

(i) Growth in demand for power outstripping the growth in generation and capacity addition.

(ii) Low Plant Load Factor of some of the thermal generating units, mostly in the State Sector.

(iii) High Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses including theft of electricity.

(iv) Poor financial position of State Utilities rendering it difficult for them to raise the resources necessary for making required investments to create adequate generation, transmission and distribution system.

(v) Inadequate availability of gas, coal and nuclear fuel.

(c) and (d) The operation of traffic signals in various cities is under the purview of concerned State Government. Closing of traffic signals in various cities due to power crisis has not been reported to the Government.

Sanction of hydro-electricity projects

1765. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of procedure for sanctioning of hydro-electricity projects across the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to make any uniform policy in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) As per Section 8 (1) of the Electricity Act, 2003, concurrence of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is required for setting up of hydro electric schemes, depending on the limits of capital expenditure for such schemes as fixed by Central Government, from time to time, by notification.

As per Government notification dated 18.4.2006, the following limits of capital expenditure have been fixed for hydro electric schemes, requiring CEA concurrence: