

Demand side management of power

4103. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Demand Side Management (DSM) of energy in the agriculture sector will benefit the poor farmers of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof especially in relation to the farmers, of the flood-prone and drought-prone regions of Bihar;
- (c) the details of various incentives given to the agriculture sector in the last three years and current year in the country, State-wise; and
- (d) the special measures taken for the farmers of States like Bihar where electricity is in deficit supply and poverty levels are high?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has initiated Agriculture Demand Side Management (Ag DSM) programme in which pump set efficiency upgradation would be carried out through the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode. The objective of the programme is to create appropriate framework for market based interventions in the agricultural pumping sector by facilitating a conducive policy environment to promote PPP for implementing the projects along with providing the farmers with energy efficiency pump-sets free of cost. The cost of pumps will be recovered from reduction of subsidy that the State Government has to pay from its budget, based on the energy savings due to efficient pumps. The Ag DSM scheme has not been implemented in Bihar.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Completion of power projects

4104. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that targets for completion of power generation projects have reduced due to paucity of funds for Eleventh Five Year Plan period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which Government proposes to meet the energy needs of the people when they reduced the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Planning Commission had fixed a capacity addition target of 78700 MW for the 11th Plan. According to the assessment of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), a capacity addition of 62374 MW is likely to be commissioned with a 'high level of certainty' during the Eleventh Plan period. A capacity addition of 22302 MW has been achieved till 31.3.2010. In addition, projects totaling to

12,590 MW have been identified for commissioning on 'best efforts basis' during the Eleventh Plan period.

The assessment of the CEA is based on physical progress of the projects. No project utility has expressed paucity of funds as a reason for non completion/ slippage in the project's commissioning schedule.

(c) Measures such as higher generation from the existing plants, energy conservation, reduction in T&D losses, etc. would help in minimizing the impact of energy shortage arising out of reduced capacity addition targets.

Imported coal for thermal power projects

†4105. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for placing Kota and Suratgarh thermal projects in the list of units utilizing imported coal;

(b) whether Government has conducted any survey to establish that coal import is costing these two units a great deal thereby raising the per unit cost of power;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to permanently remove these two thermal units from the imported list;

(d) if so, by when they would be removed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Against the requirement of 404 Million Tonne coal for the power utilities for the year 2009-10, the availability of coal from the domestic sources was indicated as 363 Million Tonne, leaving a shortfall of 41 Million Tonne. In order to bridge this gap, Power Utilities were advised to import 28.7 Million Tonne coal (equivalent to 41 Million Tonne of domestic coal in view of higher calorific value) which happens to be approximately 7.1% of the total coal requirement for 2009-10. Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) was advised to import 0.8 Million Tonne coal, which is about 5.8% of the annual coal requirement of their existing generating units of Kota and Suratgarh.

(b) to (e) Government is aware of the high cost of imported coal, including its transportation cost which leads to increase in per unit cost of energy. However, import of 28.7 MT coal, which is 7.1% of total coal requirements, was also inevitable to avoid loss of generation due to shortage of coal. Blending of imported coal with indigenous coal beyond certain limits is not possible due to technical limitations of the boiler design. All the major power stations in the country, therefore, have to consume their share of the imported coal; even pithead power stations are consuming imported coal.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.