

(d) whether objections have been raised against any public investments in hydro power projects in Bhutan; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Ongoing cooperation between India and Bhutan in the hydropower sector is covered under the 2006 Agreement on cooperation in Hydropower between the two countries and the Protocol to the 2006 agreement signed in March, 2009 thereof. Under the Protocol, Government of India has agreed to develop 10,000 MWs of hydropower in Bhutan for export of surplus power to India by 2020.

(c) The surplus power from hydropower projects would be purchased by Government of India. Bhutan will get the proceeds from the sale of this power.

(d) and (e) No objection has been received against the investment proposed in hydropower projects in Bhutan.

Completion of gas-based power projects

2567. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of gas-based power projects have not been commissioned for want of adequate and uninterrupted supply of gas;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and slippage in capacity addition as a result thereof;

(c) by when these projects are likely to be commissioned; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure the uninterrupted supply of gas for these power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a)

No, Sir. No gas based power projects in the country is awaiting commissioning for want of gas. All the existing gas based power plants and those plants scheduled for commissioning in 2009-10, having pipeline connectivity with KG-D6 and HVJ have been allocated gas by Empowered Group of

Ministers (EGoM). EGoM has further decided that these plants could draw additional gas on fallback basis up to a maximum of 12 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter per day (MMSCMD), to increase their Plant Load Factor (PLF).

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, question do not arise.

(d) Government of India has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to augment gas supplies and bridge the gap between supply and demand for the domestic market including that for power sector. These includes:-

(i) Out of total allocation of 91.61 MMSCMD from KG D-6, 43.165 MMSCMD (31.165 MMSCMD) on firm basis and 12.00 MMSCMD fallback basis) has been allocated to power sector by the EGoM. In addition to this, a provision of 10.00 MMSCMD of gas on fall back basis has been made for captive power plants from KG D-6.

(ii) As regards power projects which are in the pipeline, EGoM has decided that, subject to the availability of gas, necessary allocations from KG-D6 field will be made to these projects as and when they are ready to commence production.

(iii) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) is taking necessary steps to increase availability of gas from domestic source by awarding gas block for Exploration & Production (E & P) activities in various sedimentary basins of the country under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(iv) MoPNG is encouraging import of gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and also making efforts for import of gas through international pipeline projects.

FDI in power sector

2568. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment in the country's power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of power projects financed through FDI in the country for which Government has assured a counter guarantee; and

(d) the amount of investment involved in such projects?