

(a) the number and particular of thermal power projects submitted by the Orissa Government that are pending with the Ministry including 2,640MW Lanco Babandh Power Limited, Dhekanal and 2x660 MW CESC Limited power project at Neulapoi, district Dhenkanal;

(b) the reasons for the delay in approving the proposals; and

(c) by when the proposals would be finally disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) As per Electricity Act, 2003, generation has been delicensed and concurrence of Central Electricity Authority (CEA)/Ministry of Power is not required. Therefore, no proposals have been received and pending with the Ministry of Power/CEA for approval.

Universal access to electricity

2137. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to universalize access to electricity in the country on a priority basis;

(b) if so, the amount of electricity needed to meet the basic needs of rural households in the country under a universal access regime;

(c) whether decentralized generation and distribution of electricity through renewable sources would help in ensuring the above access in a significant manner;

(d) if so, the percentage share of electricity that could be potentially supplied through renewable energy sources in 2022 or 2032; and

(e) the specific steps taken by Government and policies formulated to ensure that the above potential is fully utilized to ensure universal access to electricity?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The Government of India launched 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikarn Yojana (RGGVY) - Scheme for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification, in April, 2005 for providing access to electricity to rural households. Under RGGVY, so far 573 projects covering electrification of about 1.18 lakh un/de-electrified villages and providing free electricity connections to estimated 2.46 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, have been sanctioned.

(b) The RE Policy aims at Minimum Life Line consumption of 1 unit per household per day as a merit good by year 2012. The 17th Electric Power Survey Committee in its report (March, 2007) has projected the All India forecast for the Rural Domestic consumption for the year 2010-11 and 2011-12 (Utilities only) which is 79423 M kWh and 89742 M kWh respectively.

(c) Decentralised Generation and Distribution (DDG) of electricity through renewable energy sources can help in providing increased access to electricity in areas facing shortage of electricity. However, the extent of the same is region/location specific and depends on several factors, particularly the available renewable resources potential and the cost of other competing energy supply options.

(d) It is envisaged by MNRE that the contribution of electricity generated from renewable energy sources will reach around 6.4% by 2022. Contribution likely thereafter cannot be assessed at present as it will be critically dependent on the technological advancements in the entire energy sector at that stage.

(e) The Government according to MNRE has taken several steps and measures to promote and harness renewable energy sources, which include the following:

- Fiscal and financial incentives, such as, capital/interest subsidies, accelerated depreciation, nil/concessional excise and customs duties.
- Directives under Electricity Act 2003 to all States for fixing a minimum percentage for purchase of electricity from renewable energy sources taking into account local factors.
- Preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power in most potential States.
- Normative guidelines by CERC for fixation of such preferential tariffs.
- Generation Based Incentives Schemes for Wind Power to attract private investment by Independent Power Producers not availing Accelerated Depreciation benefit.
- Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission initiated recently to give a boost to deployment of solar energy systems, solar photovoltaic as well as solar thermal.