

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting of the Energy Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister was held on 10.2.2006.

(b) During 2005-06 (Upto January, 2006), against a requirement of gas (at 90% Plant Load Factor) of 57.52 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMPD), the actual supply has been 35.87 MMSCMPD, thus leaving a gap of 37.6%. Similarly, against a projected demand of coal of 310 million tons for 2005-06, Ministry of Coal agreed to supply 298 million tons from indigenous sources. Assuming a transit loss of 6 Metric Tons, the shortfall was 18 Million Tons (5.8%).

(c) Steps have been taken to increase availability of gas from domestic sources by awarding gas blocks for exploration and production activities in various sedimentary basins of the country under New Exploration Licensing Policy and also to import of gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas. To bridge the gap between demand and supply of coal during 2005-06, import of 13.45 million tons of coal has been decided during 2005-06. As a long term measure, new coal blocks are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers/utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.

(d) and (e) For meeting the coal demand, Coal India Limited has identified 100 projects to be taken up during Tenth Five Year Plan period. The total capacity of these projects is 250.75 million tons. Out of these, 65 projects with aggregate 113.265 million tons have been sanctioned so far. 15 projects are to be approved by Coal India Limited under the powers delegated to them. Out of 20 projects to be approved by the Government 6 have been recommended by the Public Investment Board. It is envisaged that the projects taken up during the Tenth Five Year Plan would contribute 82.24 million tons during the terminal year of X Plan i.e. 2006-07.

Additional supply of power to Bihar

1853. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has sent any request to the Central Government for additional supply of electricity from the National Grid; and

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RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) In August, 2005, Government of Bihar had requested for enhancing allocation of power from NTPC stations in the Eastern Region (ER) from the prevailing level of 960 MW to at least 1250 MW. The allocation from NTPC stations in ER were reviewed and allocation of Bihar was enhanced to about 1019 MW *w.e.f.* 15th November, 2005.

Work on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh transmission line

1854. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI
HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Power Grid Corporation of India propose to work on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh transmission line; and

(b) if so, by when a decision in this regard would be taken and what would be the cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) prepared a Feasibility Report for construction of 220 KV transmission line from Srinagar (Alistong) to Leh *via* Drass, Kargil and Khalsti at an estimated cost of Rs. 633.79 crores (Second Quarter, 2004 Price level). However, no decision has been taken to execute this project.

Rural electrification programme in Bihar

1856. SHRI MANGANILAL MANDAL: SHRI
R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vast majority of rural population still has no access to electricity and is dependent on kerosene lamps and lanterns;

(b) if so, the schemes formulated for electrification of 25000 remote villages/hamlets;

(c) the reasons for not electrifying a single remote village of Bihar under remote village electrification programme as on 30.11.2004;

(d) the list of 273 remote villages of Bihar identified for electrification under remote village electrification programme, district-wise; and