

(b) if so, the details of the discussions therein;

(c) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Ministry for allocation of unallotted power to the State;

(d) the suggestions made by the Ministers with regard to the power shortage in their respective States; and

(e) the measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Planning Commission had convened a meeting of Energy Ministers of States on 17.7.2012 with a view to consult State Governments on Energy Chapter of the Twelfth Plan.

(c) Yes, Sir. Andhra Pradesh had been given unallocated power of 216-305 MW. Thereafter, unallocated power was further enhanced by 100 MW with effect from 30.7.2012 and 131.17 MW of firm allocation was also provided with effect from 01.7.2012.

(d) and (e) Inadequate availability of coal and gas as fuel, delays in environment and forest clearances, debt restructuring of distribution companies, right of way issues etc. were mentioned as limiting factors in the growth of power supply. The need to revise tariff consistent with direction of CERC and APTEL was considered important for sustainability and viability of power supply.

Coal supply problems of NTPC

1666. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the Ministry's opinion that the Coal India Ltd. (CIL), being the only coal miner, is harming the power sector in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NTPC is not able to add 11,000 MW of power capacity due to non-availability of coal;

(c) if so, what alternative ways NTPC is searching for fuel supply;

(d) whether the Ministry has proposed to have a regulator for coal sector; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government, CIL and the Ministry of Coal thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) On 23.09.2011, Ministry of Coal conveyed its 'in-principle' approval to allocate new captive coal blocks in lieu of coal linkages to NTPC for a total capacity of 8460 MW. However, allocation of coal blocks is awaited from Ministry of Coal. Moreover, Ministry of Coal, on 14.06.2012 de-allocated Chatti-Bariatu, Kerandari & Chatti-Bariatu (South) coal blocks of NTPC linked to 2640 MW capacity under implementation. Ministry of Power has requested Ministry of Coal to identify the coal blocks for projects of capacity 8460 MW and issue letter of re-allocation for coal blocks associated with 2640 MW of projects.

For further capacity of 18,390 MW of new projects of NTPC, coal linkage has been applied to Ministry of Coal.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A Group of Ministers has been formed to look into the matter of constitution of Independent Regulatory Authority for Coal Sector.

Electricity supply to rural areas

†1667. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that less electricity is being supplied to the rural areas than urban areas;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been issued by the Central Government to the States 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 K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (d) There is an overall shortage of power in the country, primarily due to growth in demand for power outstripping the growth in availability of power. The shortage varies from State to State on month to month and day to day basis depending upon the demand and availability of power. Electricity being a concurrent subject, responsibility for supply of electricity to different categories of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.