

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.

consumers and areas including rural as well as urban areas lies with the concerned State Government/Power Utilities in the State. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by establishing power plants in the Central Sector through Central Public Sector Undertakings. Supply of electricity within different areas of States is not monitored by Central Electricity Authority/Ministry of Power. However, Government has issued guidelines under RGGVY scheme to provide electricity at least for 6-8 hours.

Sale of stake by power companies

†1668. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several developers are willing to sell their share in power projects due to the hardships cropping up in the power sector;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps for financing power projects; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Power has no report regarding developers willing to sell their share in power projects due to hardships in the power sector.

(b) and (c) Power Finance Corporation Ltd and Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd, Central Public Sector Undertakings extend loan/funds to power projects. In addition, financial institutions also finance power projects. Steps taken by the Government for extending further help are given in the Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by Govt. for extending further help

1. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% is permitted in power sector, under the automatic route for:
 - i) Generation and transmission of electric energy produced in hydro-electric, coal/lignite based thermal, oil based thermal and gas based thermal power plants;
 - ii) Non-Conventional Energy Generation and Distribution;

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