

Issue plaguing power sector

2766. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of issues which are plaguing the power sector today;
- (b) the reasons behind these problems; and
- (c) the steps taken to solve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Power sector is facing numerous issues and efforts are being made by the Government to address these. Some of the major issues being faced by the power sector include shortage of coal, shortage of gas and poor financial health of Distribution Companies (DISCOMS).

(c) Several steps have been initiated by the Government to address the issues in the power sector. These include advice to Coal India Limited (CIL) to enhance production of coal in the country; import of coal, to the extent technically feasible, to bridge the gap between its requirement and availability from domestic sources; thrust on ramping up production of coal by captive coal block allottees from existing mines and expedite commissioning of new coal blocks; initiation of steps by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to augment production of natural gas from the gas fields/wells; and notification of a scheme for financial restructuring of the State distribution companies (DISCOMS) by the Ministry of Power on 05.10.2012 to enable the turnaround of the State DISCOMs and ensure their long term viability.

Capacity addition in power sector

2767. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the target of capacity addition in power sector in the first and subsequent years of the Eleventh Five Year Plan was reduced;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) initiatives suffered slowdown in the whole span of Eleventh Plan;