

(a) whether, in order to support the large expansion in production and consumption of electricity, the transmission and distribution network will have to be significantly expanded and strengthened; and

(b) if so, the details of efforts made in this regard and the success achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Commensurate with the load growth, expansion and strengthening of transmission and distribution system is being carried out on a regular basis. As of 30.06.2013 the existing length of transmission lines and sub-stations capacity at the voltage level of 220 kV and above is 277490 ckt. kms and 482251 MVA respectively. During Twelfth Plan period, a total of about 1,07,440 ckt. kms of transmission lines, 2,70,000 MVA of AC transmission capacity and 12,750 MW of HVDC system is planned to be added.

As regard to the distribution system, section 42(1) of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that:

"It shall be the duty of a distribution licensee to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical distribution system in his area of supply and to supply electricity in accordance with the provisions contained in this Act."

Electricity is a concurrent subject and the responsibility of sub-transmission and distribution rests with the States. Government of India acts as a facilitator in supplementing the efforts of States to provide power to consumers in an improved manner for which assistance is provided to States and Distribution utilities under various schemes like R-APDRP, RGGVY and NEF.

Negative growth of electricity generation

927. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electricity generation had a negative 4.1 per cent growth in February 2013 compared to its 8.6 per cent growth in February 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is proposing any measures to increase the electricity generation in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As per the monthly energy generation report (compiled from daily generation data) of Central Electricity Authority which is tentative, the electricity generation had a negative 4.1% growth in February, 2013 as compared to 8.6% growth in February, 2012. However, as per the actual energy generation, programme and PLF report of the month, the electricity generation during February, 2013 had a negative growth rate of 3.6%.

The main reason for low growth in electricity generation were :

1. Low inflow in the river/reservoir due to deficit Monsoon in Southern Region, Eastern Region and North-Eastern Region which affected the generation from hydro power stations.
2. Non commissioning of Kudankullam Nuclear Units affecting generation from Nuclear sources.
3. Shortage of fuel (coal and gas) which affected the generation from thermal power stations.

(c) and (d) The steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase electricity generation in the country include the following:

- (i) Acceleration in generating capacity addition during Twelfth Plan with a proposed target of 88,537 MW (excluding 30,000 MW renewable) against an achievement of 54,964 MW during Eleventh Plan.
- (ii) Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of the on-going generation projects.
- (iii) Development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4,000 MW each to reap benefits of economies of scale.
- (iv) Advance planning of generation capacity addition projects for Twelfth Plan.
- (v) Augmentation of domestic manufacturing capacity of power equipment through Joint Ventures.
- (vi) Coordinated operation and maintenance of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas based power stations to optimally utilize the existing generation capacity.

- (vii) To meet the shortfall in coal supplies to thermal power stations from indigenous sources, the power utilities have been advised to import coal.
- (viii) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units.
- (ix) Strengthening of inter-State and inter-regional transmission capacity for optimum utilization of available power.
- (x) Strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution network as a major step towards loss reduction.

New power plants

928. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many new power plants are running at half of their capacity;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Out of 59 new power generating units commissioned during 2012-13 and 2013-14 (upto July, 2013), 11 units are generating less than half of their capacity. The details of generating units and reasons thereof are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) The steps taken by the Government to improve the capacity utilization *inter-alia* are:

- Constant monitoring and coordination with Ministry of Coal to ensure sufficient coal availability for power sector.
- Encouragement to import of coal wherever technically feasible to bridge the gap between requirement of coal and its availability from domestic sources
- All efforts are being made to ensure as much as possible, gas for the gas based plants to increase their production.