

the Scheme has not yet been fully implemented and the Company has been facing a critical financial crisis and acute shortage of funds. Some of the Company's major orders also got cancelled or are under arbitration because of which the Company's working capital has been blocked thereby further aggravating the financial crunch. At present, even statutory liabilities are not being timely paid resulting in severe defaults. Delayed/non-payment to SSIs is on account of severe liquidity crunch faced by the Company.

It is also added in this context that besides pending payment to SSI units, the Company has to pay approx. Rs. 20 crore to various suppliers other than SSI units as well. The Company has informed that its officers have not indulged in any fraud while procuring goods from the SSI units, and while procuring the goods they had followed all purchase procedures of the Company and they are committed to meet all due payments in a phased manner on availability of funds. As non-payment/delayed payment to the SSI units has been on account of the difficult financial position of the Company, no action against any officers of the Company is considered appropriate.

Demand and supply gap in power sector

†*65. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been constant gap between demand and supply of power in the country for the past several years;
- (b) if so, the average annual gap between demand and supply of power in the country estimated during 2009-10 to 2013-14;
- (c) whether in order to end this gap, Government has identified those sources in power sector in which improvement in efficiency can bridge this gap; and
- (d) if so, the details of such sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) There has been a gap of varying quantum, between demand and supply of power in the country for the past several years. The details of year-wise peak and energy shortage in the country during the period 2009-10 to 2013-14 is given below :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Peak shortage		Energy Shortage	
	(MW)	(in %)	(in MU)	(in %)
2009-10	15,157	12.7	83,950	10.1
2010-11	12,031	9.8	73,236	8.5
2011-12	13,815	10.6	79,313	8.5
2012-13	12,159	9.0	86,905	8.7
2013-14 (April to October, 2013)	5,746	4.2	27,245	4.6

(c) and (d) In order to end the gap between demand and supply of power in the country, the steps taken by the Government, *inter-alia*, are:

- (i) Acceleration in generating capacity addition during Twelfth Plan with a proposed target of 88,537 MW (excluding 30,000 MW renewable) comprising of 10,897 MW hydro, 72,340 MW thermal and 5,300 MW nuclear 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) Adoption of more efficient super critical technology for thermal power generation.
- (v) Augmentation of domestic manufacturing capacity of power equipment through Joint Ventures.
- (vi) To meet the shortfall in coal supplies to thermal power stations from indigenous sources, the power utilities have been advised to import coal.
- (vii) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units.
- (viii) Strengthening of inter-State and inter-regional transmission capacity for optimum utilization of available power.

- (ix) Promoting energy conservation, energy efficiency and demand side management measures.

Infection caused by candles on cakes

*66. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Medical Research Council of Australia after a research has banned the practice of blowing out candles placed on cakes on birthdays and other occasions;

(b) whether Government would take steps to ban such practice in India, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that when the candle placed on cake is blown out, the cake is infected with some bacteria which may spread disease; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The Indian Council of Medical Research has informed that Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has banned blowing out candles on community cakes and has instructed daycare centres to provide birthday boys and girls with their own individual cupcakes to blow the candles out to avoid the spread of germs.

(b) and (c) The move to ban blowing out candles is still being debated.

(d) No study has been carried out by ICMR to find out that when candle placed on cake is blown out the cake infected with some bacteria will spread disease.

Production of shale gas in the country

†67. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States of America has become an exporter from that of an importer country after it started the production of shale oil and gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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