

Power crisis

*183. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified the reasons for power crisis in the country and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to overcome them, especially in Assam;

(b) whether power plants of nearly 42,000 MW capacity have been built and are ready to operate but lack fuel, if so the measures taken to provide them adequate fuel to make them operational; and

(c) whether lack of infrastructure and shortage of equipments, such as turbines, boilers and generators, is another major hurdle for power crisis in the country, if so, the action taken to create infrastructure to combat the power crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The reasons for shortfall in power, *inter alia*, are:

- (i) Less generation due to fuel shortage in some power plants.
- (ii) Low Plant Load Factor of some of the thermal generating units.
- (iii) Transmission and Distribution constraints.
- (iv) Less Hydro generation because of poor monsoon in some areas.
- (v) High Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses of State Discoms.
- (vi) Poor financial health of State Utilities rendering it difficult for them to raise the resources necessary for making required investments to create adequate generation, transmission and distribution system. At times State Utilities are even unable to purchase power due to financial constraints.

Following measures are being taken which would help North-Eastern (NER) States including Assam for better availability of power:

- (i) With the commissioning of both the modules of Pallatana Gas Based Power Plant (GBPP) (2x363 MW) in Tripura, Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station (3x250 MW) of NTPC in Assam and Monarchak GBPS (104 MW) of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO) in Tripura, Subansiri and other hydro projects in North-East, the power supply position in NER including Assam would considerably improve.

- (ii) Strengthening of Malda-Farakka-Jeerat corridor line being constructed by POWERGRID for facilitating import of power from Eastern region to North-Eastern region.
- (iii) Under Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (R-APDRP), projects worth ₹ 840 Crores have been sanctioned for Assam, out of which about ₹ 274 Crores have already been disbursed for strengthening of the distribution system.

Other steps being taken by the Government to overcome the power shortage in the country, *inter alia*, are:

- (i) Acceleration in generation capacity addition during 12th Plan with a proposed target of 88,537 MW from conventional sources and 30,000 MW from renewable energy sources.
 - (ii) Undertaking a massive programme for strengthening of inter-state and inter-regional transmission capacity for evacuation of power.
 - (iii) A new scheme has been announced in this year's Budget for strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution networks and for segregation of agricultural feeders. This is in addition to the existing scheme of Restructured Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (RAPDRP), under which upgradation of existing distribution networks is taken up in collaboration with States.
 - (iv) Expeditioniously resolving issues relating to environmental and forest clearances for power projects under implementation.
 - (v) Bridging the gap of indigenous coal availability through coal imports for increased generation by thermal plants.
 - (vi) Diverting coal from E-auction to make additional quantity of coal available for power plants, besides increasing the domestic coal production.
 - (vii) Promoting energy conservation, energy efficiency and demand side management measures.
- (b) Out of 42,350 MW plants, 24,190 MW plants are gas based and are under stress because of non-availability of domestic gas. Of the balance, coal based thermal capacity of 7,230 MW is already commissioned and a further capacity of 10,930 MW (which includes 4,220 MW requiring tapering linkage due to delay in linked coal block mining) is likely to be commissioned by March, 2015 having no coal linkage. Efforts are being made to make fuel available for these plants to the extent possible.

(c) For thermal power projects, there are no major problems with regard to infrastructure or availability of equipments. However, as far as hydro electric projects are concerned, these are generally located in hilly and far flung areas, where basic infrastructure facilities such as roads and bridges are required to be developed in order to move the plant and machinery to the project site. The State Governments and Project developers take necessary steps to create required infrastructure facilities as per the requirement of the Hydro Electric Project.

Expenditure on mid day meals

*184. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expenditure incurred by the Central Government on mid day meals during the last three years, State-wise along with the number of beneficiaries;

(b) whether some State Governments are providing extra support to the beneficiaries;

(c) if so, the other food items being supplied by those States;

(d) whether there is any new plan to provide buttermilk to students, if so, the reasons therefor and the cost expected to incur thereon; and

(e) whether Government would appoint a separate mess infrastructure and stock monitoring agency for better services to avoid unnecessary administrative problem?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) The details of expenditure incurred by the Central Government on mid day meals during the last three years, State-wise along with the number of beneficiaries are given in the Statement. I and II (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Rajasthan, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, D and N Haveli, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Puducherry are providing other food items like egg, banana, chikki / laddu, milk, sukhadi etc. from States resources.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration of this Ministry.

(e) No, Sir.