

Power shortage in Maharashtra

861. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra is facing huge power shortage due to non availability of coal and gas supply;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto to help Maharashtra Government to get adequate coal and gas supply;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has cancelled coal blocks allocated to the State which would further cause problems of coal shortage in the near future; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to resolve the coal shortage problems in the State, which has been facing huge power crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Maharashtra is not facing huge power shortage. As reported by the States, the energy shortage in Maharashtra is 1.6% against the all India shortage of 4.1% during the current year (April-October, 2014). During November, 2014, there has been augmentation in the coal supply resulting in better coal materialization. The gas based generation across the country including Maharashtra has been affected due to inadequate availability of gas to power sector. However, Government of India has announced new gas prices due to which the domestic gas supply is expected to increase. Government has resolved several issues to ensure adequate supply of coal.

(c) and (d) Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its judgment dated 25.08.2014 and 24.9.2014 has cancelled 204 coal blocks including coal block allocated to State of Maharashtra. Since the Hon'ble Supreme Court has given six months' time to the coal block allottees, power supply due to non-availability of coal from the producing blocks is not likely to be affected immediately. Government of India has promulgated an ordinance stipulating the methodology to be followed for allocation of cancelled coal blocks. However, to ensure adequate availability of coal, the gap in indigenous coal availability is being met through enhanced coal production and coal imports for increased generation by thermal plants.

Consumption of power

†862. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether per capita electricity consumption in India is very low in comparison to almost all developed and developing countries despite constant increase in demand;

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