

Problems of power sector

2006. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the power sector in the country is facing dual problems *i.e.* a shortage of indigenous coal and that the imported coal is proving very costly;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken to help them out;
- (c) whether private sector power companies are faced with the funding problems; and
- (d) if so, Government's action plan to help them out to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) For the year 2014-15, as against domestic coal requirement of 554 Million Tonne (MT), availability of domestic coal was ascertained as 473 MT, leaving a shortfall of 81 MT. In order to meet this shortfall, Power Utilities were advised to import 54 MT coal.

Price of imported coal depends upon various factors such as, heat value, moisture content, ash content, source of origin, ocean freight, etc., and it may vary with various consignments.

In order to ensure adequate availability of coal, the following steps are being taken by the Government:

- (i) Multi-dimensional efforts are underway by Coal India Ltd. to enhance production of domestic coal beyond current year's target.
- (ii) Power Utilities have been advised to use imported coal to bridge the shortfall in domestic coal availability.
- (iii) The availability of coal is being regularly monitored closely at the level of the Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Power in the Government.

(c) and (d) Since Electricity Generation is a delicensed activity as per Electricity Act, 2003, the Generation project developer arranges the funds for the generation project(s). The remedial steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power in the country, *inter-alia*, are:

- (i) Capacity addition of 1,18,537 MW (including 88,537 MW conventional and 30,000 MW renewable) during the 12th Plan, *i.e.* by 2016-17. As against this, about 52,738 MW from conventional sources has been achieved till 09.02.2015 and about 9120 MW from renewable sources till 31.01.2015.

- (ii) Construction of 1,07,440 ckm transmission lines and setting up of 2,82,740 MVA transformation capacity during the 12th Plan, *i.e.* by 2016-17. As against this, 50,503 ckm of transmission lines and 1,64,924 MVA of transformation capacity have been achieved till January, 2015.
- (iii) The gap in indigenous coal availability is being met through enhanced coal production and coal imports for increased generation by thermal plants.
- (iv) Government of India has taken initiative to prepare State specific Action Plans for providing 24X7 Power For All (PFA) in partnership with the States.
- (v) Two new schemes have been approved by the Government of India, namely, Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana and Integrated Power Development Scheme for strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution networks and for segregation of agricultural feeders to give adequate and reliable supply and reduce line losses.
- (vi) Renovation & Modernization (R&M) of old thermal power plants is planned by concerned State and Central Power Utilities for improving the Plant Load Factor of existing power stations leading to increase generation.
- (vii) Promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency and demand side management measures are being undertaken.
- (viii) In order to support financial viability of State Distribution Utilities (Discoms), the Central Government had notified a Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP).
- (ix) Many issues relating to Environmental and forest clearances have been expeditiously resolved for facilitating early completion of generation and transmission projects.

Power generation in Assam

2007. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power generating units in Assam, at present and the details of such units which are not working along with the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government is considering to establish new power plants to help the State in its current power crisis;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to start those power generating units to meet the current crisis in State?