

stakeholders and to encourage larger participation from investors/developers in the bidding, an Expert Committee has been constituted to further examine Standard/Model Bidding Documents applicable for Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs)/Case-2. The Committee is finalizing recommendation on the Standard Bidding Documents for Ultra Mega Power Projects based on allocated domestic coal blocks. The Committee is also reviewing the documents for Ultra Mega Power Projects based on imported coal and projects based on other coal sources.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Committee are still under finalization.

Purchase of energy beyond RPO limit

1529. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the updated status of action taken by the Central Government to resolve the issue of purchase of excess energy beyond the Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) limit, generated from new and renewable energy resources;

(b) by when Government intends to settle this matter; and

(c) whether Government has received any representation from State Government of Gujarat in this regard and if so, the updated status of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Electricity Act, 2003 provides for promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Section 86(1) of the Electricity Act, 2003, mandates State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC)/Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) to specify Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) target for the obligated entities in their respective States.

Further, Tariff Policy notified by the Central Government under the Electricity Act, 2003 on 06.01.2006, *inter-alia*, provides that the Appropriate Commission shall fix minimum percentage for purchase of electricity from renewable sources taking into account availability of such resources in the region and its impact on retail tariffs. The Act and Policy do not apply any restriction on procurement of power by an obligated entity in excess of the minimum Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) fixed by the Appropriate Commission.

To resolve the issue of purchase of excess energy beyond the Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO), as requested by Government of Gujarat, the Central Commission,

vide its Regulations Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for recognition and issuance of Renewable Energy Generation) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2014, has specified that a distribution licensee shall be eligible to apply for registration with Central Agency for issuance of and dealing in Renewable Energy Certificate if it has procured renewable energy, in the previous financial year, at a tariff determined under Section 62 or adopted under Section 63 of the Act, in excess of the renewable purchase obligation as may be specified by the Appropriate Commission in the National Action Plan on Climate Change or in the Tariff Policy, whichever is higher.

Plant load factor

1530. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the overall plant load factor for power plants has declined in the recent years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed by Government to augment power generation and distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The overall plant load factor or plants is dependent on a number of factors, such as the availability of overall generating capacity, *vis-a-vis* demand by the procurers, planned maintenance, forced outages, transmission constraints, availability of fuel and quality of fuel, higher cost of generation etc.

(c) The remedial steps taken by the Government to augment power generation and distribution:

- (i) Capacity addition of 1,18,537 MW (including 88,537 MW convention 30,000 MW renewable) during the Twelfth Plan, *i.e.* by 2016-17.
- (ii) Efforts have been made to enhance the supply of domestic coal to power planturing 2014-15, the coal supply to power plants has registered a growth of 10.4% which is the highest achieved in a single year.
- (iii) Construction of 1,07,440 ckm transmissiones and setting up of 2,82,740 MVA transformation capacity during the Twelfth Plan, *i.e.* by 2016-17.
- (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.