

a Company owned by Government of Sikkim, has increased its equity stakes in Teesta Urja Power Project to 51% against their earlier stake of 26%. To meet the requirement of funds by Sikkim Government to increase the equity stake to 51%, PFC has provided a loan of ₹ 1744.13 crore to SPICL. NHPC has been entrusted with the task of Project Management Consultancy for the balance works of Teesta-III Hydro Electric Project in the State of Sikkim. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has already been signed by NHPC Limited with Government of Sikkim.

Work on Teesta Power Project has recommenced w.e.f. 1st October, 2015

**Increase in percentage of power royalty to Uttarakhand**

†892. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the current electricity generation, in megawatts in Uttarakhand and the percentage out of that which is received by the State as royalty;

(b) whether electricity made available to the State is adequate;

(c) if not, whether Government would consider to accord approval to set up new power projects in the State to meet the power shortage; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider to increase the percentage of royalty to the State from the power being generated within the State and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The total installed capacity of power plants located in Uttarakhand State is 3,756.35 Mega Watt (MW) as on 31.10.2015 including 1,774.2 MW in Central Sector, 1,252.15 MW in State Sector and 730 MW in Private Sector. The power allocated from Central Generating Hydro Electric Projects includes 12% free power as per the Hydro Policy, 2008.

(b) As per information given by the State to Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the power supply position during 2015-16 (April–October) indicates 2% deficit in both peak demand and energy requirement. The corresponding peak demand shortage is 38 MW and energy deficit is 143 MU respectively.

(c) and (d) Government has advised States/UTs including Uttarakhand to tie up power to meet their requirement, based on their anticipated demand supply scenario.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Further, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 10 hydro electric projects aggregating to an installed capacity of 2,966 MW were received in CEA for concurrence on river Ganga and its tributaries in Uttarakhand. CEA has cleared six hydro electric projects of 2,077 MW installed capacity.

### **Hike in electricity tariffs**

†893. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to increase electricity tariffs after having consultations with the States;

(b) the new policy of Government to gradually increase electricity tariffs;

(c) whether the likely impact of increase in electricity tariffs on common men has been looked into; and

(d) whether Government is considering to provide financial help to the States to bail out the State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Tariff of distribution companies is determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs)/Joint Electricity Regulatory Commissions (JERCs) based on the principles enunciated under the Electricity Act, 2003 and policies framed thereunder. There is no provision for direct regulation of the electricity tariff by the Central Government.

(c) Through appropriate policy framework and programmes, the Government is promoting efficiency in generation, transmission and distribution business as also supporting strengthening of the distribution and transmission infrastructure, with a view to reducing the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses. These measures, along with the Government's emphasis on discovery of tariff through competitive bidding, contribute towards lowering of tariff rates.

(d) Ministry of Power has launched a Scheme UDAY-Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana on 20.11.2015. The scheme envisages taking over of DISCOM debt by States outside the fiscal deficit limits leading to reduction in interest burden; reduction in cost of power; priority/additional funding through schemes of Ministry of Power/Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; and measures to prevent future slippages.

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