

manufacturer would undertake suitable design changes in the engine systems, transmission, aerodynamics of the vehicle, tyres etc. as appropriate to meet the fuel efficiency norms. If any model of any manufacturer has Fuel Consumption more than the prescribed value, the manufacturer will not be permitted manufacture/sale/import of that model.

(d) Systematic efforts have been made by the Ministry to create awareness about energy conservation in the country, which are as follows:-

- (i) Ministry of Power organizes National Energy Conservation Awards in order to appreciate and encourage the efforts of industry and other establishments towards promoting energy efficiency. These awards are distributed on National Energy Conservation Day *i.e.* 14th December every year.
- (ii) Awareness/Outreach Programmes on Energy Conservation are carried out through State Designated Agencies (SDAs) which include development and distribution of promotional material like pamphlets, booklets, brochures, posters, appropriate campaigns for promotion of energy conservation and awareness campaigns on energy efficient products and services.
- (iii) Workshops are conducted at regular intervals to create awareness by BEE and disseminate information among various end consumers of energy *viz.* large, medium and small industries, municipalities, commercial and residential buildings, farmers (agriculture sector), electricity distribution companies, and among energy professionals, accredited/certified energy auditors, energy managers, Designated Consumers, building professionals, architects, Financial Institutions and Energy Service Companies.

Stressed thermal power plants

†1425. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of coal based thermal power plants which have been declared stressed;
- (b) the reasons for declaring above plants as stressed, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that major problem of the stressed thermal power plants is not to be paid on time by the DISCOM;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (d) if so, the quantum of amount outstanding with different DISCOMs; and
- (e) the action plan made by Government to recover the outstanding amount and for regular payment in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) to (c) Department of Financial Services on 22.03.2017 had provided a list of 34 coal based Thermal Power Projects, mostly private, Totaling to 40,130 MW which were considered 'Stressed' by Ministry of Power.

High Level Empowered Committee (HLEC) constituted by the Government on 29.07.2018 to address the issues of Stressed Thermal Power Projects identified the following major reasons for stress in power sector:-

- (i) Issues related to coal supply
 - (ii) Slow growth in power demand
 - (iii) Delayed payments by Discoms
 - (iv) Inability of the Promoter to infuse the equity and service debt
 - (v) Slow implementation of project by the developers
 - (vi) Issues related to Banks/Financial Institutions
 - (vii) Aggressive tariffs quoted by bidders in competitive bidding process
 - (viii) Regulatory and contractual disputes
 - (ix) Legal issues related to auctioned coal mines
 - (x) Other operational issues.
- (d) As per PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification and Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators) portal, as on 31.01.2020 outstanding dues with different DISCOMs excluding disputed amount, is ₹30,583.25 crore in respect of Central Gencos, ₹ 19,588.15 crore in respect of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and ₹6,188.41 crore in respect of Renewable Energy.
- (e) Ministry of Power had issued an order on 28.06.2019 and subsequent corrigendum thereon on 17.07.2019 and 23.07.2019 for Payment Security Mechanism under Power Purchase Agreements by Distribution Licensees. National Load Dispatch

Centre (NLDC) and Regional Load Dispatch Centres (RLDCs) have been directed to dispatch power only after it is intimated by the Generating Companies and Distribution Companies that a Letter of Credit (LC) for the desired quantum of power has been opened. In the State Power Ministers' Conference held on 10-11th Oct, 2019, State Governments have been requested to liquidate the dues of the Government Departments within a period of six months.

Biomethanation of rice straw to solve stubble burning

1426. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that biomethanation of rice straw could solve the problem of stubble burning resulting in added pollution:

(b) whether the Ministry is formulating an action plan to implement biomethanation of rice straw; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The following steps are being taken to solve the problem of stubble burning, namely:

1. In an all India coordinated project, efforts are on to produce bio-gas for kitchen use and quality manure for fields using bio-methanation of rice straw by anaerobic digestion method. Six domestic level paddy straw based bio-gas plants have been installed in Punjab for field trials and further study is in progress.
2. R&D project has been supported on refinement and demonstration of an integrated process technology for conversion of crop residues into ethanol and methane for use as transport fuels.
3. A major focus on agriculture waste/stubble management (waste to wealth), alternative to burning, has been taken up under waste management technologies programme and proposals are being considered.