

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.133
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2021

POWER BLACKOUT IN MUMBAI

133. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of **POWER**
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that large parts of Mumbai and its suburbs have faced a power blackout that disrupted train services and threw life out of gear for millions of residents due to grid failure in the month of October, 2020;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether any Central team has visited Mumbai to identify the problem and to find out possible solutions against such break down again; and
- (d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to stop such sudden power blackout in the country?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b): On 12.10.2020 at 10:02 hours, the electrical system of Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) got islanded from the national electricity grid. Further, total internal generation except Dahanu generation (of AEML) tripped thereby resulting in black out in major areas of MMR viz. Mumbai & suburbs, Thane, Navi Mumbai.

During restoration, priority has been given to emergency loads viz. Railways, Hospitals etc. The supply to Railway was restored at 11:52 hrs on 12.10.2020. The Power supply in the MMR was finally restored in steps by 01:00 hrs of 13.10.2020 depending upon the availability of generation and loading on the 400 kV network.

(c) & (d) : A Committee constituted by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) visited Mumbai on 13th and 14th of October, 2020. The recommendations of the Committee cover the following areas:

- i. improvement in the Maharashtra State Load Despatch Centre (MSLDC) Infrastructure and its operation.
- ii. improvement in the Mumbai Islanding Scheme .
- iii. ensuring proper power system protection.

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- iv. robust planning of transmission and generation to ensure that no such power failure occurs in future.
- v. Uran Islanding Scheme should be made serviceable at the earliest.
- vi. operation of Bhira Pumped Storage plant and periodic preventive maintenance works at all sub-stations.
- vii. Ensuring reliable backup power supply for the communication systems to have uninterrupted data and speech communication at SLDC/RLDC during blackout.

Further, a review of all islanding schemes in the country was taken at the level of Hon'ble Minister of State for Power and CEA has been directed to take all necessary measures to ensure that the electricity grid remains healthy and in the event of any power failure, the electricity supply is restored within minimum possible time.
