

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3636
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
SETTING UP OF NATIONAL GRID
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering on any proposal for setting up of a national grid to resolve the problem of power in the entire country;
- (b) if so, whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited have failed to meet the requirement of the power in the country;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other financial institutions have agreed to advance loans to the Government for setting up of the National Grid;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (f) : At present, Indian Power system is divided into five Regional grids and within each region strong inter-connection and well developed Regional grids are in position. In order to extend the benefit of generation resources all over the country and to transfer surplus power in one region to a power deficit region, interconnections of regions have been planned.

POWERGRID, as Central Transmission Utility is responsible for undertaking transmission of energy through inter-state transmission system, evacuation of power from all Central Power Stations and delivery of allocated power to constituent states. POWERGRID has achieved excellent performance and have received 'Prime Minister's MOU Award' amongst top ten PSUs in 1997-98 and 1998-99.

POWERGRID has already chalked out its plan to integrate all the regions through HVDC stations /bi-pole and 765 KV AC rings to facilitate the transfer of power between the regions without any constraint. The HVDC inter regional links between western and northern, western and southern and eastern and southern regions are already existing and HVDC link between eastern and northern region is under construction.

For further strengthening of the National Grid, high capacity long HVDC links as well as AC links have been planned to be commissioned along with Mega Projects. With these interconnections, the total inter-regional power exchange capability would be increased to about 23,400 MW by 2006-07. In the ultimate phase, a strong synchronous National Grid has been envisaged to evacuate the power from major generating resources. This would involve development of a high capacity transmission corridor in chicken-neck area and establishment of a ring of 765 KV lines interconnecting Eastern, Western and Northern regions. Inter-regional transmission capacity of the proposed National Grid would increase to about 30,000 MW by the year 2012.

POWERGRID has planned to invest about Rs. 80,000 crores for implementation of projects including those required for development of a strong and vibrant National Grid capable of transferring 30,000 MW power by the year 2012. In order to meet the massive investment plan, POWERGRID has been raising loans from the market and international financial institutions like Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank from time to time. ADB has recently approved a direct loan of US \$ 250 million to POWERGRID for its grid strengthening, inter-regional and generation linked transmission projects. The loan has become effective from 10th January 2001. POWERGRID has also signed an agreement with World Bank on 13th June, 2001 for loan of US\$ 450 million for implementation of its various transmission schemes.