

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4079

ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002

DEVELOPMENT OF THERMAL POWER

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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a national perspective is needed for thermal power development;
- (b) if so, the concrete steps being considered by the Union Government to improve the thermal power development in the country;
- (c) the total capacity of thermal power developed at present;
- (d) whether any target has been set up for Ninth and Tenth Plan for improving thermal power development in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) : The Indian Power Sector continues to remain dependant on thermal generation. The thermal sector presently accounts for 71% of the total installed capacity and the share of thermal generation has progressively increased over 80% at present. The reliance on coal based thermal power generation is expected to continue in future as the country has abundant resources of coal which are sufficient to last over 200 years at the present rate of consumption. The total installed capacity of thermal power plants as on 31.3.2002 was 74371 MW.

Planning Commission had targeted a capacity addition of 40,245 MW comprising 29,545 MW thermal project during 9th Plan period against which a capacity of 19,119 MW (13,761 MW thermal) has been achieved. The Working Group on 10th Plan has also identified a feasible capacity addition of 46,939 MW during 10th Plan against need-based capacity addition requirements of about 57,000 MW. This feasible capacity of 46,939 MW includes a thermal capacity of 28,328 MW. Steps taken to improve the thermal power generation in the country include :-

- (i) Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) and life extension of existing old and inefficient thermal generating units.
- (ii) Maximization of the generation from the existing capacity.
- (iii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned generating units.
- (iv) Reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses.
- (v) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures and technology upgradation.
- (vi) Disbursement of loans by the Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under the Accelerated Generation Programme.
- (vii) Expedient implementation of capacity addition programme to enable doubling of the generation capacity by 2012.