

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:438
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2005
PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY BY RAILWAYS
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways meet its electricity needs from the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC);
- (b) if so, the estimated quantity of electricity purchased by the Railways per annum;
- (c) whether the Railways are considering to purchase electricity from independent power producers as reported in the `Business Standard` dated November23,2005; and
- (d) if so, the facts thereof and the decision taken in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 438 BY SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 22.12.2005 REGARDING PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY BY RAILWAYS.

(a): Yes, Sir. Presently, Railways meet its electricity needs for traction purposes from State utilities in 17 States and 3 power companies viz. Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), M/s. TATA and NTPC Limited.

(b): The quantum of electricity purchased by the Railways for traction purposes was 10133 Million Kilowatt hour in 2004-05.

(c): Yes, Sir. Railways are exploring the possibilities to purchase power from the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and Power Trading Companies (PTCs).

(d): The average rate charged for electric traction is about 421 paise per unit. This does not have any relation with the cost at which the electricity is produced in the country.

Therefore, an `Expression of Interest` from IPPs/PTCs to supply electricity at cheaper rates at Railways Traction Sub-Stations (TSS) in Northern region (Requirement about 419 Mega Watt) and Southern region (Requirement about 490 Mega Watt) has been invited.

Detailed discussion is being held with prospective IPPs/PTCs to understand the complexities of the issue in view of the emerging scenario in the context of The Electricity Act, 2003. Railways are also exploring possibilities for hiring consultants to assist Railways in the process of selection of IPPs/PTCs through an open tender.