

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:21

ANSWERED ON:13.02.2009

POWER GENERATION

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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the power generation capacity is sufficient to meet the rapidly growing demand of power in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any concrete action plan to increase the power generation in near future; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) : The total installed generating capacity in the country as on 31st January, 2009 was 1,47,458 MW. During the year 2008-09 (upto end of January, 2009), against a peak demand of 1,09,809 MW, the peak met was 94,634 MW, representing a shortage of 15,175 MW (13.8%). The present rate of growth of power generation is falling short of the rate of growth in demand for electricity, primarily due to inadequate capacity addition, inadequate availability of coal, gas and nuclear fuel, delay in achieving commercial operation of generating units due to delay in completion of balance of plant works by the contractors and poor financial position of state utilities making it difficult for them to raise the resources necessary for making the required investments to create adequate generation, transmission and distribution system.

(c) & (d) : The National Electricity Policy envisages `Power for all by 2012` and per capita availability of power to be increased to over 1000 units by 2011- 12. The Planning Commission has set a capacity addition target of 78,700 MW during the 11th Plan, out of which capacity aggregating 11,937 MW has already been commissioned upto 31.01.2009 and balance capacity is under construction. The steps taken / being taken to increase the power generation in the near future include improving generation from the available sources including utilization of the unrequisioned capacity of gas based power station on liquid fuel, close monitoring of the ongoing power generation projects, import of coal to bridge the gap between domestic availability and its requirement, harnessing surplus captive power into grid, renovation, modernization, life extension and uprating of old and inefficient generating units, etc.