

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2702
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2009
PERFORMANCE OF POWER PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the performance of some of the power projects in the country including West Bengal is not upto the mark during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, project-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to bring about some changes in these power projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) & (b): Generation performance of power stations is linked to the type of generation. While the thermal/ nuclear units are meant to be utilized continuously as base load stations, hydro units are to be utilized depending on availability of water / reservoir level. The generation performance of thermal / nuclear power stations, expressed in terms of Plant Load Factor (PLF), depends on a number of factors such as vintage of the unit, forced and planned outages, availability of the required quantity and quality of fuel, etc. Indicator of performance of hydro power plants is its availability excluding the time required for its planned maintenance and attending to forced outages.

The average PLF of Thermal & Nuclear Power Stations in the country during the last three years is given below :

Year	PLF (%) Thermal	PLF (%) Nuclear
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2006-07	76.8	57.5
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2007-08	78.6	46.4
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2008-09	77.2	40.8
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A statement indicating the state-wise list of thermal & nuclear power stations which operated at PLF lower than the national average PLF during the last three years and the current year (2009-10) is enclosed at Annex. -I and Annex.-II.

The main reasons for low PLF of some of plants in the country are:-

Vintage of the generating units.

Health of the generating units i.e. maintenance practices adopted.

Long outages for repair works required for break down (forced outages) and planned maintenance.

Non-availability of the required quantity and quality of fuel / water.

Constraints of auxiliaries.

Various problems in the initial stage of operation in the case of newly commissioned units.

Constraints of fuel supply for nuclear plants.

Long duration shut down for statutory repair / inspection work for nuclear plants.

The PLF of the State sector thermal power stations located in West Bengal has been less than national average PLF, primarily due to long outages.

(c) & (d): The following measures have been taken / are being taken by the Government to improve performance (PLF) of thermal plants :

- i. Adoption of better Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Practices for improving PLF through tie-up with well performing utilities (Partnership in Excellence Programme).
- ii. Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units.
- iii. Reducing the duration of planned maintenance in the thermal power stations.
- iv. Continuous inter-action by CEA with Power Station Authorities, BHEL and other concerned agencies for sorting out operation and maintenance problems.
- v. Regular monitoring of supply of coal to thermal power stations by CEA & Ministry of Power for optimizing coal supply to the power stations from various sources.
- vi. Rigorous monitoring of production, transportation and supply of coal by an Inter-Ministerial Group comprising representatives of Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Railways, CEA and Coal India Ltd. on weekly/ fortnightly basis to review and resolve the constraints.

Besides above, retirement/scraping of old and uneconomical plants and installation of new & efficient units as replacement is also being considered on case to case basis.

The following measures are being taken/ proposed for carrying out the improvement of performance of state sector thermal plants in West Bengal:

Name of station (MW)	Capacity period	Plan works	Improvement
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Bandel unit-5	210	11th Plan	Life Extension Works
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DPL (Durgapur) unit-6	110	11th Plan	R & M Works
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Kolaghat Unit- 1,2 &3	630	12th Plan	Life Extension Works
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