

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1825
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER
Tewari Shri Manish

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the target set for Nuclear Power production by year 2030;
- (b) the investment required to achieve this target;
- (c) whether it is a fact that per unit cost of production of the nuclear energy is still higher in the country as compared to thermal and hydro power;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the nuclear power plants are working at less than installed capacity;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps being taken to reduce the per unit cost of production of nuclear energy?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

- (a) The Integrated Energy Policy-2006 envisages possibilities of reaching a nuclear power capacity of 63,000 MW by the year 2032.
- (b) The estimated investment is Rs.10 crore/MW at 2010 prices.
- (c)&(d) No, Sir. The 2009-10 average nuclear tariff of about Rs.2.30/KWh is quite comparable to thermal power. Nuclear Power is competitive with coal thermal power at locations away from coal mines. Most of hydel power comes from multipurpose dams (costs are shared amongst flood control, irrigation and power); is seasonal, location-specific and not compared for base load needs.
- (e)&(f) There are 19 nuclear power reactors (4560 MW) in operation. 7 reactors (1400 MW) use imported fuel and work at full power, 9 reactors (2630 MW) use domestic uranium, of which there is a shortage. These are being operated at maximum of 70% power. Two reactors (440 MW) are awaiting fuel loading after renovation & modernization. One Reactor (RAPS-1-100 MW) is shut down.
- (g) Nuclear power reactors are capital intensive and the efforts to optimize cost of generation are directed at optimization of design, longer life, reduction of gestation period, adopting business models & financing strategies to minimize costs, and to operate at high capacity factors.