

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2699

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011

GAS-BASED POWER PROJECTS

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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether crunch in natural gas supply has made the power companies to relook their expansion plan regarding setting up of gas-based power projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether almost 8000 Mega Watt of new gas-based power projects is stranded due to lack of gas fuel;
- (d) if so, the details of the power projects which are awaiting fuel supply; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) & (b): Presently no power project developer has informed for relooking their expansion plan due to crunch in natural gas supply. However, it is informed that due to non-availability of additional gas and short supply of allocated gas to the power projects, even the existing gas based power plants are operating at sub-optimal level.

(c) & (d): Based on the report of Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Ministry of Power has so far recommended for allocation of 31.81 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter per Day (MMSCMD) of gas for 5820 MW capacity likely to be commissioned in 11th Plan (Annex-I). In addition, Ministry of Power also requested for assurance for allocation of 24.27 MMSCMD of gas for 6450 MW capacity in the Central / State sector (Annex-II), so that they can get investment approval from their respective Boards as per Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines to plan and execute their projects.

(e): Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to enhance availability of natural gas in the country, consisting, inter alia, of the following:-

- (i) Intensification of domestic Exploration & Production (E&P) activities through New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) rounds;
- (ii) Coal Bed Methane (CBM) E&P activities;
- (iii) Underground Coal Gasification;
- (iv) Import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from various countries; and
- (v) Transnational pipelines, viz., Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline and Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline.