

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1832

ANSWERED ON:23.03.2012

POTENTIAL OF POWER GENERATION IN NORTH-EASTERN REGION

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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there exists vast potential of power generation in the North- Eastern Region of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of power generation potential utilized/unutilized in the North Eastern Region, source-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the details of steps taken by the Government to tap this potential during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the details of project proposals received and cleared by the Union Government for construction of new Hydro Power Projects in the North-Eastern Region during the last ten years, State/location wise and project-wise;
- (e) whether the Government propose to construct hydro power projects on the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : Based on the studies for re-assessment of hydro-electric potential of the country, completed by Central Electricity Authority in 1987, identified hydropower potential in the country is 1,48,701 MW (1,45,320 MW – above 25 MW). This includes 62,604 MW of potential in North Eastern (NE) Region including 4248 MW in the state of Sikkim. The state-wise status of development of Hydro Electric Potential in the N.E. Region and Sikkim is given in Annex-I.

Presently, 10 projects with aggregate installed capacity of 1158 MW are in operation in N.E. region while 2 Projects with an installed capacity of 570 MW are in operation in Sikkim. In addition, 6 HE projects with aggregate capacity of 2894 MW are under construction in NER while 10 HE projects with aggregate capacity of 2421 MW are under construction in Sikkim.

In addition, the region has coal reserves assessed as about 1076 Million Tonnes which is equivalent to just about 0.4% of the total coal reserves of the country. The State-wise coal resources in NE region are as under:

State Geological Coal resources (As on 1.4.2009)

	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
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Arunachal Pradesh	31	40	19	90
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Assam	348	36	3	387
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Meghalaya	89	17	471	577
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Nagaland	9	0	13	22
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Total:	477	93	506	1076
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The region has one coal based thermal plant viz. Chandrapur TPS (60 MW) in Assam.

The region also has some gas reserves in Assam & Tripura and power generation capacity of gas based power plants in the region is 787 MW. The list of Thermal/Gas Power projects, presently under construction in the Region, is given below:

Sl. No.	Project Name/ State-wise	Implementing Agency	I.C. (MW)	Type
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|----|---|--|------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Lakwa Waste Heat Recovery Project- Steam Turbine | Assam Power Generation Corpn. Ltd. | 37.2 (Gas) | Thermal |
| 2. | Namrup Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) | Assam Power Generation Corpn.Ltd. | GT-70 ST-30 (Gas) | Thermal |
| 3. | Bongaigaon TPP (Coal) | NTPC | 3x250 | Thermal |
| 4. | OTPC (Palatana) CCPP OTPC (JV of ONGC, Tripura State and IL&FS) Block-II: (GT+ST) | OTPC (JV of ONGC, Tripura State and IL&FS) | Block-I: (GT+ST)-363.3 (Gas) | Thermal |
| 5. | Tripura Gas Based Power Project, Monarchak | NEEPCO | 101 (Gas) | Thermal |

(c) : Govt. has taken a number of steps and initiatives to give a thrust to the development of balance hydro in NE region. Steps taken by the Govt. in last few years are in Annex-II.

(d) : DPRs in respect of 37 Nos. of H.E projects were received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for concurrence during the last 10 years (i.e. 1st April, 2002 onwards) on Brahmaputra River and its tributaries. Out of these, 21 DPRs have been accorded concurrence by CEA while 7 DPRs are currently under examination and the remaining 9 DPRs have been returned to the project authorities due to various deficiencies etc.

The details of hydroelectric projects concurred, under examination and those returned by CEA are given vide Annex-III, IV & V respectively.

(e) & (f) : Presently, 18 HE projects with an aggregate capacity of 5649 MW are under construction in the respective State Governments on the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries. Details are given at Annex-VI.