

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1264
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012
POWER GENERATION CAPACITY
Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any data regarding the power generation capacity and the volume of power produced by the national energy producers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the under utilization of power generation capacity of energy producers is a major concern; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The monitored capacity of the national energy producers (central sector stations) as on 31.07.2012 was 65439.93 MW. Actual gross electricity generation by these plants during 2012-13 (up to July) was approximately 1,29,640 Million Unit.

(c) & (d): The utilization of installed capacity of a generating unit of power producers is linked to the type of power station. While the thermal units are meant to be utilized continuously as base-load units, hydro units are to be utilized both as base or peak load, depending on availability of water/ reservoir level. Thus, utilization of installed capacity is effectively applicable to thermal (including nuclear) generating units and is expressed in terms of Plant Load Factor (PLF). The PLF of thermal and nuclear units mainly depends on a number of factors such as age of the units, outages for repairs (forced) and planned maintenance, availability of quantity and quality of fuel and receipt of schedule from beneficiaries, etc. Availability of water for hydel power generation influences the performance of hydro power stations. Therefore, unlike PLF for thermal stations, availability of hydel power station is used to assess the performance of that station. Reasons for their performance below their generating capacity include inadequate availability of coal and gas, supply of coal having quality at variance with designed coal, long duration forced outages, closure of the plant on account of taking up Renovation & Modernization, Life Extension and uprating works, problem of silt, etc.

While, the overall PLF of coal/ lignite based thermal power stations in the country was 72.12% during 2012-13 (up to July, 2012), the PLF of central sector coal/ lignite based thermal power stations during the same period was 82.07%. Moreover, the generation of central generating stations during April to July, 2012-13 was 104.2% of the target. In order to improve utilization of capacity of power stations, thrust is being given to import of coal to bridge the gap between requirement of coal and its availability from domestic sources, renovation & modernization, life extension & uprating, etc.