

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:257

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009

SHORTAGE OF POWER

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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is acute shortage of power in the country causing slowdown in the industrial sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allocate/sanction more funds to the States facing power shortage;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of power and enhance power generation in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : There is an overall shortage of power in the country and in all the states both in terms of energy and peaking power. The shortages vary from state to state on month to month, day to day and hour to hour basis depending upon the demand and supply of power. The energy and peaking shortage in the country during 2009-10 (April to October, 2009) was 9.8 % and 12.6 % respectively. The state-wise details in this regard are enclosed at Annex.

The main reasons for shortage of power is due to growth in demand for electricity outstripping the growth in electricity generation and capacity addition in the States. The other reasons are

- (i) delayed and insufficient rains in catchment areas of reservoirs and hydro power projects,
- (ii) low Plant Load Factor of some of the thermal generating units, mostly in the State Sector,
- (iii) Inadequate availability of gas, nuclear fuel and coal,
- (iv) very high prices of gas and naphtha in international market making these fuels unaffordable,
- (v) high Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses including theft of electricity, and
- (vi) poor financial position of state utilities making it difficult for them to raise the resources necessary for making the required investments to create adequate generation, transmission and distribution system.

(c) & (d) : No funds are provided by the Government to the states to overcome shortage of power. The states are required to take steps to meet enhanced demand for power through various measures and funds required, if any, are to be arranged by them.

(e) : The steps taken / being taken by the Government to enhance generation and mitigate shortage of power in the country include quantum jump in generating capacity addition envisaged during the 11th Plan, development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4,000 MW each, harnessing surplus captive power into the grid, import of coal, enhanced availability of gas from KG basin, augmentation of manufacturing capacity of equipment for electric power in the country, demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures, etc.