

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:162
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2012
POWER GENERATION CAPACITY
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various power plants set up in the country are generating power below their installed power generation capacity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, plant and State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government so far to improve the power generation in such power plants;
- (d) whether the Government has made an evaluation regarding the power generation capacity of such power plants;
- (e) if so, the details of the evaluation report; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) : The performance of power plants is dependent on a number of factors, like type / category of plant (hydro or thermal), design and age of the units, outages for repairs (forced) and planned maintenance, availability of water, quantity and quality of fuel etc.

The Plant Load Factor (PLF) is an index of utilization of the installed capacity of thermal/nuclear generating units. A statement indicating thermal power stations having PLF below the national average PLF during the period April-October, 2012 is enclosed at Annex-I. The main reasons for low PLF include vintage and technology, long duration forced outages, shortage of coal and supply of coal having quality at variance with the design coal, transmission constraints etc. Gas power stations have been affected due to shortage of gas and low schedule from utilities due to economic reasons.

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. List of hydro power stations which are not generating power as per their generation capacity is enclosed at Annex-II. Reasons for their performance below their generating capacity include long duration forced outages, closure of the plant on account of taking up Renovation & Modernization, Life Extension and uprating works, problem of silt and less inflows etc.

(c) : To augment the power generation, Govt. of India has put emphasis on Life Extension and Uprating of various existing power projects in the country.

The other steps taken by the Government to bring improvement in the generation capacity of such projects include the following:

- (i) Continuous interaction of CEA engineers with plant authorities, BHEL and other concerned agencies for solving bottlenecks in O&M activities.
- (ii) Continuous interaction of CEA with better performing power utilities and the other power utilities for sharing better O&M practices.
- (iii) Ministry of power and CEA along with State and Central Power Utilities has initiated external cooperation in the area of Energy Efficiency R&M (EE R&M) with foreign agencies such as USAID / JCOAL / IGEN / KfW / GIZ, etc.

(d) to (f) : The low performing station are monitored with respect to the target. The process being dynamic, there is no specific evaluation report on the power generation capacity of such power plants. However, some of these power plants are considered for R&M work and life Extension from time to time.