

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1515
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2009
SHORTAGE OF COAL AND GAS
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the target of power generation of 78,700 MW during the Eleventh Five Year Plan is unlikely to be achieved due to shortage of coal and gas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the supply of coal and gas in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): According to latest assessment of Central Electricity Authority (CEA), against a capacity addition target of 78700 MW, a capacity of 62,374 MW including 18859 MW already commissioned is likely with a high level of certainty during 11th Plan. The projects are getting delayed in the 11th Plan not because of shortage of coal and gas alone. There are other reasons, such as, delay in placement of orders, delay and non-sequential supply of material for Main Plant and Balance of Plants (BoP), contractual disputes, shortage of skilled manpower for erection and commissioning, shortage of nuclear fuel etc.

(c): The steps taken by the Government to increase supply of coal and gas to power stations in the country include:

The Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee, headed by Secretary (Co-ordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat, reviews the coal production and supply to thermal power stations in the country every month.

A Sub-group of the Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee headed by the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Coal, consisting of the representatives from the Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Railways and Coal India Ltd., every week reviews and resolves the problems of coal supply to thermal power stations having coal stocks below 7 days requirement.

Ministry of Coal has been persuaded to enhance the production of coal in the country.

Power utilities have been advised to import coal to meet the shortfall in indigenous coal supply.

New integrated pit-head power and coal mining projects have been envisaged for implementation. Matters for expediting the environmental / forest clearances to coal mining projects taken up with Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) in its meeting dated 27.10.2009 has allocated bulk of the additional gas from KG basin to Power Sector. This includes 12.29 MMSCMD gas on firm basis and 12 MMSCMD on fall back basis to existing power projects including projects likely to be commissioned during 2009-10. Apart from above 10 MMSCMD gas has been earmarked for allocation to captive power plants on fall back basis and additional 0.875 MMSCMD gas has been earmarked for allocation to four power plants of A.P. on firm basis subjected to verification by MoP.

Apart from augmenting production of natural gas from the gas fields/ wells and increasing availability of gas from domestic sources by awarding gas block for exploration and production activities under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is also encouraging import of gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and also making efforts for import of gas through international pipeline projects.