

>

Title: Need to allocate more power to the State of Tamil Nadu from Central Pool.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Sir, electricity is essential for our day-to-day life. In view of the growing needs of the country, power generation is not only the responsibility of the State Government but also of the Central Government. The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, took a lot of efforts to augment power generation in Tamil Nadu during his tenure. But the Central Government had not extended required support to the Government of Tamil Nadu. The main objective of setting up the Power Grid Corporation is equal distribution of power to all the States for an equitable development. The Government of India must give all kinds of assistance to those States where the potential to generate power is more and also set up transmission lines. The Central Government must accord top priority and evolve action plan for this purpose. As of now, the private companies which are only distributing are dominating this sector. In Tamil Nadu, the gap between the demand and supply is approximately 30 per cent. This has led to the alarming situation resulting in closure of many industrial units in the State. As a result, the industrially backward districts of Vellore and Thiruvannamalai are worst affected. At the same time, it has also badly affected the agriculture sector.

So, the Government of India must come forward to supply more power to the State of Tamil Nadu from the Central pool/grid so as to address the situation and help the economic development of the State. I would also request the Government of India to pay compensation to the affected farmers and agricultural labourers.