

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1956**  
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2021

**USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES**

1956. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN  
MS. DEBASREE CHAUDHURI

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government proposes to increase the use of renewable energy sources in public sector power generation units like NTPC and NHPC and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the target set with respect to total investment, employment opportunities and power generation in this regard;
- (c) the difficulties being faced in terms of enhancing the level of power generation in the sectors in which NTPC/ NHPC have attained the expertise in power generation by using required resources;
- (d) whether the potential of power generation from these resources has been declined; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER**

**(SHRI R.K. SINGH)**

(a) The Government, through Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, is already implementing a scheme, viz. CPSU Scheme Phase-II (Government Producer Scheme), for setting up of solar photovoltaic (PV) power projects by Government producers including Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) like NTPC Limited and NHPC Limited. In this scheme, Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support is provided to Government producers, including CPSUs like NTPC Limited and NHPC Limited, for setting up of solar PV power projects using domestically manufactured solar PV cells and modules for generating solar power, either for self use or use by other Government entities.

(b) The scheme targets setting up of 12,000 MW grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) power plants, with investment of around Rs. 48,000 crore, thereby providing direct employment to around 60,000 persons for about one year in pre-commissioning activities/ construction phase and around 18,000 persons for about 25 years in the operation and maintenance period and generating about 20 - 25 billion units of electricity per year.

(c)to(e) The details submitted by NTPC Limited and NHPC Limited are furnished at **Annexure-I**.

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**Annexure-I referred to in reply to parts (c), (d) & (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1956 for reply on 09.12.2021**

**A. Submission by NTPC Limited:**

With increase in the electricity demand in the country, generation from NTPC coal plants has increased to 189.3 BU from April to November 2021, an increase of 17.2%, compared to 161.5 BU in the same period last year. In the present scenario, NTPC stations are not facing any difficulties in meeting the power requirements of the grid.

Operationally, NTPC coal units are capable of running at minimum Technical Load of 55% of installed capacity, as mandated by CERC for Central Generating stations. So, during daytime when solar generation increases, many of the NTPC coal units reduce load to technical minimum and thereafter increase loads again in the evening.

**B. Submission by NHPC Limited:**

The difficulties faced by NHPC in development of hydro projects mainly are as under:

**i. Environment & Forest Clearances**

Scrutiny of proposals at multiple levels / locations / offices and also by different committees to get Environment Clearance and Forest Clearance, Clearance from National Board for Wild Life (wherever applicable) leads to delay in obtaining respective clearances to the hydro projects.

**ii. Land Acquisition**

The process of land acquisition for infrastructure works as well as for project's components including submergence is quite cumbersome and time consuming.

**iii. Geological Uncertainties**

Geological surprises are the biggest and most unpredictable of all obstacles encountered during / after execution of projects specifically in younger Himalaya regions having fragile rock geology in North & North East of the Country. Even after the in-depth and extensive Survey and Investigations done before start of the project, various adverse site condition are encountered in underground components like Head Race Tunnel, Underground Powerhouse, Pressure Shaft, and Surge Shaft.

**iv. Natural Calamities**

Most of Hydro projects are being executed in hilly terrains. As such landslides, hill slope collapses, road blocks, flood, and cloud bursts etc. are a cause of severe setbacks in construction schedules.

**v. Availability of Funds**

Hydro power projects are Capital-Intensive with long gestation period. Also, availability of funds has been viewed as a major constraint for exploitation of vast hydro power potential available in the Country.

**vi. Local Agitation**

Further, there has been an increased tendency in the past few years to obstruct the works of construction projects, which are nearing completion, by various vested interest groups, local people over downstream issues, employment demands etc.

The Hydro Power potential of the country remains the same and is being harnessed in the best possible manner amid various constraints.