

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2437
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003
POWER SHEDDING DUE TO POWER SHORTAGE
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Assam and other States in the North Eastern Region have been suffering from grave power shortage whereas the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation is planning to sell its surplus power;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of power to Assam and other North Eastern States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) & (b) : During the period April-June, 2003 the North-Eastern States experienced marginal energy shortage ranging between 1.5% to 6.7% and peaking shortage between 0 to 24.2%. The energy and peaking shortages in Assam during April-June, 2003 were 6.7% and 15.4% respectively.

Main reasons for shortage of power prevailing in the state of Assam are:

- (i) Poor generation at State`s own generating stations
- (ii) Inability of the State to draw allocated share from the costlier power stations of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) viz. Assam Gas Based Power Project (AGBPP), Kathalguri and Doyang HEP due to financial constraints.
- (iii) Transmission and transformation constraints.

North Eastern Regional Electricity Board (NEREB) has decided that the surplus power of NEEPCO stations can be sold outside the region after fulfilling the requirement of the States within the Region with the right of refusal to accept power at the rate offered outside the region resting with the North-Eastern States. NEEPCO has been advised to explore the possibility of export of power outside the Region to avoid spillage of water at hydro power stations and backing down of gas based generating stations.

(c) : The following steps are being taken to improve power supply position in Assam and other North-Eastern States:

- (i) North Eastern Electric Power Corporation has agreed to supply power from AGBPP, Kathalguri to Assam at reduced tariff beyond a certain minimum off-take level.
- (ii) 60 MW power has been allocated to Assam from unallocated power of NTPC stations in the Eastern Region.
- (iii) Generating units with a total capacity of about 350 MW in NER have been identified for Renovation and Modernization/Life Extension during the 10th Plan.
- (iv) Besides, capacity addition of 433 MW planned in the State Sectors of NER, capacity addition of 495 MW is planned in Central sector in NER in which the NER States will have entitlements.

The Hon`ble Prime Minister has announced a package consisting of several developmental projects for the North-Eastern Region (NER). The scheme for development of sub-transmission and distribution network in the NER is part of the package. Under Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) sub-transmission and distribution schemes amounting to

Rs.36.82 crores and Rs.679.59 crores have been sanctioned in 2000-01 and 2002-03 respectively for NER States against which Rs.36.82 crores and Rs.125.8 crores have been released. With the completion of these schemes, improvement in the quality and reliability of power supply and reduction in T&D losses is expected in the North Eastern States.