

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:253
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2006
HYDRO POWER GENERATION
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether India is lagging behind in hydro power generation in comparison to other countries despite its immense generation potential;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated efforts for accelerated development of Hydel power generation in the country to meet its future power requirement;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up a Hydro Power Commission;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether Inter-State water disputes are coming in the way of hydro power projects; and
- (g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to resolve these disputes?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) to (g) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 253 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 08.12.2006 REGARDING HYDRO POWER GENERATION.

(a) & (b) : The re-assessment studies of hydro-electric potential of India, completed by the Central Electricity Authority in 1987, have placed the hydro power potential at about 84,044 MW at 60% load factor which when fully developed would result in an installed capacity of about 1,50,000 MW on the basis of probable average load factor. Out of the total exploitable hydro power potential, about 33,600 MW has already been developed, another 13,527 MW is under development. The extent of exploitable hydro potential and the status of its development in some of the countries is at Annexure.

Some of the main reasons for slow development of hydro potential in the country are as follows:

- (i) Difficult and in-accessible sites.
- (ii) Problems encountered in acquisition of land.
- (iii) Resettlement & Rehabilitation problems.
- (iv) Law & order problems.
- (v) Long gestation period.
- (vi) Geological challenges in construction of projects in difficult Himalayan region.
- (vii) Inter-state disputes relating to water.
- (viii) Apportionment of project costs among various beneficiary States.
- (ix) Cumbersome procedures and delays in obtaining environment, forest and wildlife clearances.

(x) Excessive burden on account of Net Present Value (NPV) imposed on diversion of forest land.

(xi) Paucity of funds in the State sector.

(c) : The Union Government has accorded top priority to the development of hydro potential in the country. The following measures have been taken by the Government for expeditious development of hydro power potential:-

(i) Policy on Hydro Power Development (1998) including measures to attract private participation.

(ii) Creation of various Central/Joint Sector Corporations for implementation of Hydro Electric (H.E.) Projects.

(iii) 3-stage clearance procedure for Central Public Sector Undertakings.

(iv) Ranking Study by Central Electricity Authority in 2001-02 for prioritizing the projects.

(v) Launching of 50,000 MW Hydro-Electric Initiative in May, 2003.

(vi) Enactment of Electricity Act, 2003.

(vii) National Rehabilitation &.Resettlement (R&R) Policy, 2003.

(viii) National Electricity Policy, 2005.

(ix) National Tariff Policy, 2006.

(x) Guidelines for determination of tariff by competitive bidding process for procurement of power by distribution licensees issued in January, 2005.

(xi) Periodical review of projects under construction by the Ministry of Power and monitoring of the projects by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) including undertaking of regular field visits.

(xii) Review meetings with manufacturers/suppliers of major equipments.

(xiii) Regular coordination meetings with Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Water Resources, Central Water Commission and Central Electricity Authority for early clearances of the projects from environment, forest and wildlife angles, sharing of waters of Inter-State rivers and concurrence under the Electricity Act, 2003.

(xiv) Advance action for identification of Hydro Electric Projects for benefits during 11th Plan and beyond.

(d) : There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up a Hydro Power Commission.

(e) : Question does not arise.

(f) & (g) : At present, 36 hydro electric schemes with an aggregate installed capacity of 7260 MW are held up due to non-resolution of Inter-State water disputes.

The subject of `Water including Water power` is a State subject under List II of the Schedule 7 of the Constitution. The Ministry of Power recognizes that the hydro-electric should be developed without prejudice to the rights of the riparian States as determined by the Awards of the Tribunals/Agreements for a given river basin. The issue has been addressed in the Hydro Policy announced by the Ministry of Power, Government of India in August, 1998. It has been suggested that the selection and design of project be based on integrated basin wise studies, so as to arrive at an optimal decision, ensuring that such projects do not in any way prejudice the claims of basin states or affect benefits from the existing projects. It has also been laid down in the Hydro Policy that a consensus would be evolved amongst the basin states regarding the location of such projects, basic parameters involved and mechanism through which each project would be constructed and operated.