

23.12.2015

தொழிற்சாலை மின்சாரம் யூனிட் ரூ.11

- நமது நிருபர் -

தொழிற்சாலையில், திடீரென பயன்படுத்தும் மின்சாரத்திற்கு, 1 யூனிட்டுக்கு, 11 ரூபாய் வசூலிக்க, மின் வாரியம் முடிவு செய்துள்ளது.

தமிழக மின் வாரியத்திற்கு, ஜவுளி ஆலை, ஐ.டி., நிறுவனம், மோட்டார் வாகனம் என, 8,200 உயரழுத்த மின் நுகர்வோர் உள்ளனர்.

இவர்கள், சொந்த மின் நிலையம், மின் வாரியம், தனியார் மின்சாரம் என, தேவைக்கு ஏற்ப, ஏதாவது

ஒன்றிலிருந்து மின்சாரத்தை பயன்படுத்தி கொள்கின்றனர்.

தனியார் மின் நிலையங்களில், திடீரென மின் உற்பத்தி நிறுத்தப்படும் போது, உயரழுத்த நுகர்வோர் உடனடியாக, மின் வாரியத்தின் மின்சாரத்தை பயன்படுத்துகின்றனர். குறிப்பிட்ட நேரத்தில் மட்டும் பயன்படுத்தும் இந்த மின்சாரத்திற்கு, 1 யூனிட்டுக்கு, 6.35 ரூபாய் கட்டணம் வசூலிக்கப்படுகிறது.

இதை, தற்போது, 11 ரூபாயாக உயர்த்த, மின் வாரியம் முடிவு செய்துள்ளது.

மின் கொள்முதலில் மாற்றம் ரூ. 6,000 கோடி மிச்சம்

- நமது நிருபர் -

தனியார் நிறுவனங்களிடம், அதிக விலைக்கு மின்சாரம் வாங்காததால், மின் வாரியத்திற்கு, 6,000 கோடி ரூபாய் மிச்சமாகி உள்ளது.

தமிழக மின் வாரியம் சார்பில், பின்னை பெருமாள் என்ற இடத்திலிருந்து, 330.50 மெகாவாட், சமல்பட்டி, 105.66, ஜி.எம். ஆர்., 196, எஸ்.டி.சி.எம்.எஸ்., 250, பயோனீர், 52.8, லேன்கோ, 113.20, மதுரை பவர், 106 மெகாவாட் என, ஏழு தனியார் நிறுவனங்களிடம், 1,154 மெகாவாட் மின்சாரம் வாங்க ஒப்பந்தம் செய்துள்ளது.

இதில், ஜி.எம்.ஆர்., பின்னை பெருமாள், சமல்பட்டி, மதுரை பவர் ஆகிய நான்கு நிறுவனங்களிடம் இருந்து, 1 யூனிட் மின்சாரம் சராசரியாக, 12 ரூபாய்க்கு வாங்கப்பட்டது; இதனால், மின் வாரியத்திற்கு, ஆண்டுக்கு, 6,000 கோடி ரூபாய்க்கு மேல் செலவானது.

ஏற்கனவே, 90 ஆயிரம் கோடி ரூபாய் கட்டணம் உள்ள மின் வாரியத்துக்கு, தனியாரிடம் அதிக விலைக்கு மின்சாரம் வாங்கியதால், கடன் சுமை அதிகரித்தது. இதையடுத்து, 2014 டிசம்பர் முதல், இந் நிறுவனங்களிடம் இருந்து மின்சாரம் வாங்கவில்லை; இதனால், இழப்பு தவிர்க்கப்பட்டு உள்ளது.

“அதிக விலை மின்சாரத்தால், வாரியத்திற்கு ஏற்படும் இழப்பு குறித்து, நிதி பிரிவு அதிகாரிகள், மின் வாரிய தலைவர் சாய்குமாரிடம், 2014 டிசம்பரில் தெரிவித்தனர். இதையடுத்து, அதிக விலைக்கு மின்சாரம் வாங்குவது நிறுத்தப்பட்டது; பிப்ரவரி மாதத்துடன், ஜி.எம்.ஆர்., ஒப்பந்தம் முடிவடைந்த நிலையில், நீட்டிக்கப்படவில்லை. நான்கு நிறுவனங்களிடம், ஓராண்டாக மின்சாரம் வாங்காததால், வாரியத்திற்கு, 6,000 கோடி ரூபாய் மிச்சமாகி உள்ளது.

மின் துறை அதிகாரிகள்



பராமரிப்பு மின்தடை சனிக்கிழமை தான்!

பராமரிப்பு மின் தடையை, வாரம்தோறும், சனிக்கிழமை மட்டுமே மேற்கொள்ள தமிழக மின் வாரியம் முடிவு செய்துள்ளது.

பராமரிப்பு பணி நடக்கும் இடங்களில், காலை, 9:00 மணி முதல் மதியம், 2:00 வரை, மின் விநியோகம் நிறுத்தப்படும்; பணிகள் முடிந்த பின், மீண்டும் மின்சாரம் வழங்கப்படுவது வழக்கம். இந் நிலையில், சனிக்கிழமை மட்டும் மேற்கொள்ள மின் வாரியம் முடிவு செய்துள்ளது.

பராமரிப்பு பணிக்காக, அடிக்கடி மின் தடை செய்தால் மக்கள் அதிருப்தி அடைவர் என்பதால், சனிக்கிழமை மட்டும் பராமரிப்பு பணி செய்யப்படும் என்ற முடிவுக்கு, மின்துறை வந்துள்ளது.



கூடங்குளம்: கேரளாவுக்கு கூடுதல் மின்சாரம் வழங்குவது குறித்து மின்துறையே தீர்மானிக்கும்

தினமணி-17 டிச., 2015

கூடங்குளத்திலிருந்து கேரளாவுக்கு கூடுதலாக மின்சாரம் வழங்குவது குறித்து மின்துறையே தீர்மானிக்கும் என பிரதமர் அலுவலக விவகாரங்கள் துறை இணை அமைச்சர் ஜித்தேந்திர சிங் கூறினார்.

இன்று மாநிலங்களவையில் நடைபெற்ற விவாதத்தின் போது, கூடங்குளம் அணு உலையிலிருந்து தயாரிக்கப்படும் மின்சாரத்தில் கேரளாவுக்கு கூடுதலாக மின்சாரம் வழங்கப்படுமா என உறுப்பினர் ஒருவர் எழுப்பிய கேள்விக்கு பதிலளித்த அமைச்சர், மின் பகிர்வு குறித்து மத்திய மின் துறையே ஒரு விதிமுறை வகுத்துள்ளது. அதன்படி உற்பத்தி செய்யும் மாநிலத்துக்கு 50 சதமும், அருகில் உள்ள மாநிலத்துக்கு 35 சதமும், மத்தியத் தொகுப்புக்கு 15 சதமும் வழங்கப்படும்.

இதில் அண்டை மாநிலத்துக்கான மின்சாரத்தை அதிகரிப்பது குறித்து மத்திய மின்சாரத் துறை தான் தீர்மானிக்கும். எனவே இக்கோரிக்கை குறித்து உறுப்பினர் மின்துறை அணுகலாம் என்றார்.

மேலும், தற்போது பராமரிப்பில் உள்ள கூடங்குளம் முதலாவது அணு உலை வருகிற ஜனவரி மாதம் உற்பத்தியை தொடங்கும். இரண்டாவது அணு உலை அடுத்த ஆண்டு மத்தியில் உற்பத்தியை தொடங்கும்.

இந்த இரு உலைகளும் செயல்பட தொடங்கினால் தமிழக மின் உற்பத்தி பல மடங்கு அதிகரிக்கும்.

கூடங்குளம் அணு உலை செயல்பாடுகள் குறித்து பிரதமர் நரேந்திர மோடி, தீவிர கவனம் செலுத்தி வருகிறார் என்றார் ஜித்தேந்திர சிங்

Slowdown Signals: In power sector, signs that growth not plugging in

The New Indian Express: December 21, 2015

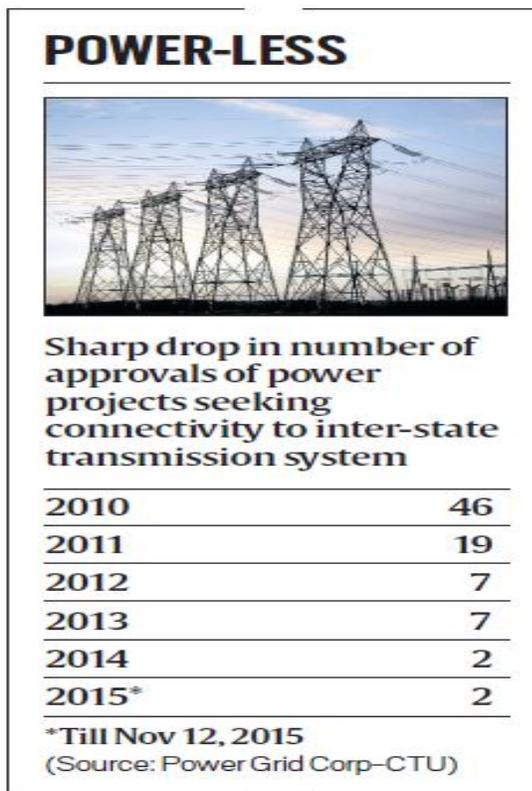
A total of 46 power generation projects were granted transmission connectivity — a key milestone for a power project that entitles the generation plant to get hooked on to the country's electricity grid.

The government's mid-year economic review may have painted an uncharacteristically sobering picture, but the bigger worry could be the absence of credible signs of a recovery getting underway in the domestic economy. If the real-time status of project development

on the ground were to be taken as a measure, the picture that emerges is in sharp contrast to the narrative of an impending industrial uptick. What makes the prognosis grimmer for core sectors such as power, a key enabler for fuelling a rebound in the economy, is the worrying drop in private sector interest in setting up new projects.

In 2010, for instance, a total of 46 power generation projects were granted transmission connectivity — a key milestone for a power project that entitles the generation plant to get hooked on to the country's electricity grid. This number is down to just two projects each in 2014 and in the first eleven months of 2015, a reflection of the dwindling investor interest.

Worrying still is the fact that the two thermal projects granted connectivity in 2015 were both in the public sector, as compared to 35 private projects in the list of 46 granted connectivity five years ago. This sharp drop in the number of projects moving towards the final stages of commissioning is bound to show up in the form of supply shortages, as and when the economy were to pick up.



There are sector-specific issues that are proving to be a drag in sectors such as power generation. Demand is worryingly stagnant, a situation aggravated by the continuing industrial slowdown and thermal power plants, the mainstay of the Indian electricity grid, being forced to operate at a plant load factor of 60 per cent — a 10-year low — as distribution companies (or discoms) do not have the money to pay for buying more power.

Of the country's total installed generation capacity of 2,68,603 MW, the peak demand met at the height of summer this year — May 23, 2015 — was less than half at just 1,34,892 MW.

Over 57 base-load thermal units across India's northern and western heartland on that day were faced with 'reserve shut-down', a technical term for a unit shut down due to lack of demand.



Reflecting the low actual off-take, data from the central electricity regulator or CERC on traded power price shows a consistent drop in volumes since 2009 — a direct consequence of the fact that capacity addition grew at 13.7 annually in the three years to 2015 even as consumption grew at a measly 6 per cent.

In the northern region, at this time of the year, states such as Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan are having to back down generation due to lack of demand. A vast majority of power generation projects are currently distressed because either their tariff is prohibitive or they are not in a position to access assured fuel supplies. This is on account of a combination of factors such as high construction cost, high fuel price, or inordinate delay, which cause cost over-run and accumulation of interest during construction.

What makes it worse for developers is a stifling bureaucratic conditionality imposed on them — that they cannot get coal from long-term linkage or even mine their own coal unless they have a long-term PPA (power purchase agreement) with discoms. Without a PPA, the only option is to buy costly coal from e-auctions. This conditionality is a boon for state-owned Coal India Ltd, but bad for both power producers and consumers. And the irony is this — discoms are not in the least interested in long-term PPAs because spot (or short-term) electricity is selling at half the long-term rates on the power exchange.

An indication of this is the fact that stalled projects in sectors such as power generation are yet to bottom out. The latest estimates on stalled projects tracked by CMIE points to an increase in their stock from Rs 8.8 trillion to Rs 9.9 trillion over the three months to end-September 2015.

The stalling rate, or stock of stalled projects as a share of all projects under implementation, rose to 11 per cent in the last quarter, up from 9 per cent. Nearly a quarter of projects are stalled due to lack of promoter interest or commercial unviability.

B Prasada Rao, Chairman and Managing Director, BHEL, can testify this given his first-hand experience of problems on account of large-scale stranded projects. The state-owned company was faced with stuck projects worth about nearly 10,000 MW, where the receivables outstanding have mounted to Rs 3,340 crore. On this, Rao does not see much movement during this quarter either.

At an analysts meet, Rao was candid about the lack of progress. “We are not seeing the traction in terms of execution of the projects; many of the projects are struggling to get clearances, to get land fully into their control. So they are not able to give clearances for us to dispatch our equipment. In fact, most of our equipment are ready in our shops but we’re not able to dispatch.”

L&T, the other capital goods bellwether, is seeking more than just the 50 basis point cut announced by the RBI in its last review. On October 30, L&T declared that it had halved its order book growth guidance to 5-7 per cent and lowered revenue projection to around 10-15 per cent for the current fiscal.

“Despite efforts taken by the government, investment momentum is yet to pick up and as a result, order inflows are devoid of large investments. There is still capacity under-utilisation and, therefore, no investments are coming in capacity addition. Players are waiting for demand momentum to go up,” L&T Chief Financial Officer R Shankar Raman said. L&T’s half-year position pegged order inflows at Rs 55,000 crore compared to Rs 73,000 crore a year ago.

The lack of demand is aggravated by the fact that most power companies made aggressive bids in the reverse auction for coal blocks designated for the power sector. Promoters who have bid aggressively, with some even quoting an additional premium to the government — over and above the mandatory royalty and reserve price — in their eagerness to access



fuel, have no option but to smuggle the fuel-charges into the fixed capacity charges. Most of these project developers, who bid aggressively to secure coal blocks in the auctions, are now reluctant to mine them in the wake of the government's decision to cap fixed charges based on regulatory considerations.

Distribution loss reduction efforts seem to have plateaued off in recent years, with discoms finding it difficult to bring losses down below 20 per cent. A new debt restructuring plan has now been rolled out by the government targeted at power distribution utilities, wherein a cleanup of the books is intended as a means of enabling the utilities to raise cheaper capital. The problem though is that almost identical efforts have been tried out at least twice in the last two decades, with the situation relapsing each time.

In telecommunications, the success story is steadily being eroded, reflected in the poor service and call drops. Telecom operators, who bid very aggressively in the 3G auctions, paid out nearly \$17 billion in the latest round. Unlike with coal, spectrum already under use by incumbents was re-allocated through auctions. This left existing operators, who have massive fixed investments, with little choice but to bid aggressively to retain their spectrum.

The exorbitant cost of spectrum adds to other headwinds that telecoms operators have to navigate. Though one of the fastest growing telecoms market in the world by customer-base, operator margins are squeezed by the lowest ARPUs (average revenue per user) of about \$3, less than a tenth of the global average. This is exacerbated by cut-throat competition, with nearly ten operators in each circle. And now, the high cost of spectrum has sharply increased debt leverage of operators, leaving them with little room to raise resources to invest on network expansion, maintenance, and upgradation.

The Indian steel sector is passing through a global over-supply crisis, something that is expected to linger over the next 18-24 months.

Amitabh Kant, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, counters the argument that private investments are petering out, especially in manufacturing. "Since the announcement of Make in India we have been able to get significant investments... FDI in the last 17 months as compared to the previous 17 months has grown by about 35 per cent... We have been able to get substantial investments in areas which include electronics, automotive, food processing, textiles and garments, renewable energy and construction," he said last Thursday.

The macro picture, though, is far from reassuring. On the back of declining corporate capex investments comes the news of fall in capital expenditure by public sector units (PSUs). The capex by 35-odd largest listed PSUs declined by 24 per cent to Rs 1.29 lakh crore in 2014-15.

An RBI survey of ex-ante capital expenditure investment decisions of Indian corporates found that in 2014-15, 830 firms intended to invest in Rs 1459 billion, as against 1056 companies' investment plans for Rs 2081 billion in 2013-14. The time phasing of the investment intentions of these companies indicate likely investments worth Rs 1933 billion in 2014-15, 27 per cent lower than 2013-14, a trend that has continued into the initial months of this fiscal.

How India Can Drop (At Least) 120 Future Power Plants

Business Standard: December 22, 2015

We have to ensure, in the spirit of climate justice, that the life of a few does not crowd out the opportunities for the many still on the initial steps of the development ladder- - *Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference*



As India struggles to balance responsibilities as the world's fourth-largest polluter with the aspirations of 1.25 billion people, 300 million of whom are without grid electricity, the design of its buildings offers a notable opportunity to cut energy use.

In 1971, residential and commercial buildings accounted for 15% of all the electricity consumed in India. By 2005, that share had doubled, and it has stayed at about 30% since.

In absolute terms, however, the electricity consumed by buildings is rising, and is poised to rise 700% over 2005 levels by 2050, says a study by Rajan Rawal, executive director of the Centre for Advanced Research in Building Science and Energy, CEPT University, Ahmedabad.

Also, buildings will emit seven times more carbon dioxide by 2050 compared to 2005 levels.

India has pledged to source 40% of its electricity from renewable and low-carbon fuels, and cut emission intensity 33% to 35% by 2030.

To save electricity, switch off the lights and air-conditioning

The share of households in India's electricity consumption has increased from 9% in 1971 to 22% today. A recent National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog report predicted this share would grow to 37% by 2030, if the government achieves 24x7 power supply and housing for all by 2022, as envisaged.

India is slated to add more than 20 billion sq m of new building floor area between 2012 and 2030, 85-90% of this for residential purposes.

Houses primarily use electricity for essential lighting and to operate domestic appliances, the use of which is climbing.

Consider:

* Rural household television ownership increased from 13% in 1993 to 26% in 2002 and to 33% in 2011.

* Urban household television ownership increased from 49% in 1993 to 66% in 2002 and to 77% in 2011.

Air-conditioner (AC) ownership tells a more powerful story because they consume more electricity than most appliances. The use of ACs indicates the quality of building design: its design for local climate and the comfort it offers.

No more than 4% of urban households in 2010 had ACs, according to this 2014 study, which predicted a growth to 30% by 2020 and to 73% by 2030, with electricity consumption by room ACs alone increasing from 8 tera-watt hours (TWh) to 239 TWh.

In urban China, the study said, the AC use rose from nearly zero in 1992 to about 100% by 2007, driven by rising incomes and urbanisation.

Unless energy use is curbed, domestic consumption of electricity in India is projected to grow 800% between 2005 and 2050, according to Rawal's research.

Enforcing the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), an energy-saving code designed for commercial establishments, in residential buildings, could reduce residential energy consumption up to 57% and curtail rise in consumption to 300% over 2005 levels, over the same period, said Rawal.

"It would also make buildings so much more comfortable to live in," he said.

Among other things, the ECBC code promotes the use of highly efficient building products and materials, including ACs.



Room ACs made with the best technology alone, could save India 118 TWh by 2030 or a peak demand saving of nearly 60 GW, said the aforementioned 2014 study. "This is the equivalent to avoiding 120 new coal-fired power plants of 500 MW each," said the study.

With India on the cusp of a new construction boom, an energy-saving opportunity

India's commercial floor space is currently estimated at 847 million sq m, and projected to increase to 1,932 million sq m by 2030.

With more than half of commercial building stock needed by 2030 yet to be constructed, the country has a huge opportunity to get its act right and construct better. In recent decades, India seems to have been doing the opposite.

Information technology (IT) multinational companies in India have given the country a taste of a western style of architecture—"glass façades that give a building a sophisticated, avant-garde look," according to Rajat Malhotra, COO, Integrated Facilities Management (West Asia), JLL India, a real-estate services company.

With this trend quickly spreading to the banking sector, towers with glass façades are now common across India. Despite boasting "green building" tags, many of these structures are energy guzzlers, said analysts at the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), an advocacy.

To comply with the ECBC, a building must meet minimum standards set for various design aspects and products, such as windows, walls, roof, air-conditioning, ventilation, lighting, etc.; this is called the prescriptive method. If air conditioned, it can adopt the Whole Building Performance (WBP) assessment, an energy simulation of the building's annual energy performance.

Typically, buildings score 'green' points for deploying electrically efficient lighting and air-conditioning products, water-conserving fixtures, etc.

"Glass is considered a 'green' construction material for being made of non-polluting raw materials, through a fairly energy-efficient manufacturing process, requiring less water and generating relatively little waste and for being recyclable," said Malhotra.

By letting in daylight, glass helps conserve energy used for lighting. So, the ECBC permits a 60% glass-to-wall ratio, irrespective of the climatic zone.

The problem is that once glass is used in the façade, the building "transforms into a different animal," as Malhotra put it.

Glass lets through high levels of solar radiation, which traps heat, raises temperature indoors and nearby and raises AC bills.

"Air-conditioning can account for up to 84% of the electricity consumed, such as when the external façade lets in too much heat as in glass buildings," said Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director for Research and Advocacy, CSE.

Using double glazing can reduce this energy consumption, but it will never be comparable to a façade that uses less glass, said Malhotra.

Uday scheme: Bailout may swell fiscal deficit of states, Centre to around 8.5% of GDP

The Indian Express : December 23, 2015

From 2017-18, the SEBS' losses will have to be taken over by the states without any relief on the FRBM front.

The implementation of bailout scheme for power discoms — UDAY (Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana) — will push up the combined fiscal deficit of states and Centre by more than one



percentage point to around 8.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2015-16 (Apr-Mar), a senior government official said. The Fourteenth Finance Commission had projected the combined fiscal deficit of states and Centre at around 6.4 per cent for the current financial year.

For states, the total fiscal deficit may shoot up to around 4.8 per cent of the GDP after the implementation of the scheme, from around 2.8 per cent as projected by the Fourteenth Finance Commission.

The calculation of rise in fiscal deficit is based on the assumption that all states will participate in the scheme. So far, 12 out of 29 states, namely Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand have joined.

“Even though theoretically the debt burden won’t be a part of fiscal deficit of states, as was specified in the Cabinet decision of UDAY, it will be a part of their actual fiscal deficit,” the official said, adding that the interest burden will rise substantially after the states take over the debt burden of state power utilities, leaving little room for capital expenditure.

The finance ministry had raised its concerns regarding the rise in debt burden of states before the announcement of the UDAY scheme as well as in their recent meeting with the power ministry, the official added.

“It (the debt burden under UDAY) will not be counted in the fiscal deficit of states as it will be a below-the-line item but for the outside world, especially rating agencies, it will form a part of the borrowing by states,” the official said, adding that finances of states will be sharply impacted after the implementation of the UDAY scheme.

Officials from finance ministry, power ministry, states and other stakeholders had met on December 17, to discuss the progress of the scheme. The states, which have opted to participate in the power discom restructuring scheme, will begin the process of signing of Memorandum of Understanding from the first week of January, the official said.

“The signing of MoUs will begin in first week of January. The MoUs will be tripartite between power ministry, state government and the power discoms. We want the state governments to explicitly specify in the MoU that the additional borrowing for debt restructuring of power discoms under UDAY will not be diverted for other purposes,” the official said.

The combined fiscal deficits of states and Centre hovered over 9 per cent of GDP during 2001-02 and 2002-03, after which it saw a steady decline, falling to one of the lowest levels of 4 per cent of GDP in 2007-08. Subsequently, the combined fiscal deficit of states and Centre has increased, rising to around 7.2 per cent of GDP in 2012-13 and 6.8 per cent of GDP in 2013-14.

The Central government had revised upwards its fiscal deficit target for the current financial year to 3.9 per cent of the GDP from earlier estimate of 3.6 per cent of GDP to accommodate higher devolution of taxes to states as per the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission.

Under the UDAY scheme, which was launched last month, the government had asked states to voluntarily take over 50 per cent of the loans of state electricity boards (SEBs) by March 31, and 75 per cent by the end of FY17.

These taken-over loans will not be counted for the states’ Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) for the current fiscal and the next. The states, in turn, will have the facility of a concessional interest rate of about 9 per cent for servicing the loans, as against rates of over 13 per cent that is charged at present on SEBs’ outstanding debt. The states will issue bonds at 0.5 per cent above the G-sec coupon rate, to finance the restructuring.



From 2017-18, the SEBS' losses will have to be taken over by the states without any relief on the FRBM front.

Emission norms for thermal power plants made stricter

Business Standard : December 23, 2015

For TPPs existing before 31.12.2003, PM standards are fixed at 100 mg per cubic metre.

Emission standards for thermal power plants have been made stricter with particulate matter (PM) emissions being capped at lower levels, the environment ministry said on Tuesday.

Till now, PM standards for TPPs with power generation capacity of more than 210 Mw was 150 microgram per cubic metre. For TPPs having generation capacity of less than 210 MW, PM standards were 350 mg per cubic metre. These norms pertaining to PM have now been made stricter depending upon their age.

For TPPs existing before 31.12.2003 - PM standards fixed at 100 mg per cubic metre.

For TPPs existing between 31.12.2003 till 2016 - 50 mg per cubic metre.

For TPPs to be established after 1.1.2017 - 30 mg per cubic metre.

New standards pertaining to Sulphur Di Oxide, Nitrogen Oxide and Mercury will also help in control of mercury emission (at about 70-90) per cent.

These standards are based on the recommendation of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) after consultations with stakeholders.

Hydro power projects default on capacity utilisation, recovering dues: CAG

Business Standard: December 21, 2015

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)'s performance audit of government-owned hydro power companies has revealed deficiencies in capacity utilisation as well as recovering dues.

According to the audit, the share of installed capacity and generation of hydro projects compared to the total installed capacity and generation was only 15.19 percent and 12.38%, respectively, as on March 31, 2015. The ideal energy mix required for optimal utilisation of installed capacity is 60% thermal and 40% hydro.

"The average capacity utilisation factor (CUF) of Bairasiul, Teesta-V, Chamera-III, and Chutak power stations of NHPC during the period covered by the performance audit were below their respective design CUFs," the report noted.

The major beneficiaries of these hydro power plants are the power distribution companies in Delhi - Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited, BSES Yamuna Power Limited, and BSES Rajdhani Power Limited - and the power discoms in Uttar Pradesh.

The cumulative dues of ~4,112.49 crore of central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) remained unrecovered from five beneficiaries as on March 31, 2015. The CAG report said CPSEs should boost their efforts to recover dues from habitual defaulters.

According to the report, owing to inadequate flushing and non-maintenance of prescribed reservoir levels, gross and live reservoir capacities of three NHPC power stations came down during the five years ended March 31, 2014.

The CAG audit also noticed that a large number of instruments installed at dams and other structures to monitor their health were not in working condition. "The disaster management plans of all power stations selected for the performance audit except Indira Sagar power



station of NHDC were not in accordance with CWC (Central Water Commission) guidelines," the report noted.

The report also urged the Union power ministry that under the national electricity policy, the ministry might coordinate with the regulator to ensure the desired action for increased monitoring and compliance with regulations.

Save Energy. Save Money. Save the Planet