

Delhi will have surplus power by 2010

Some breezy news amid talk of a sweaty and powerless summer in the national capital! Energy hungry Delhi will see the availability of power enhanced to 7,000 MW from the present 4,000 MW by the Commonwealth Games in 2010, says a top official.

'The city will have surplus power supply in two years. The process of capacity building is under way at full throttle,' said R. Narayanaswami, special advisor on the 2010 Commonwealth Games for the Delhi government.

'The expected peak hour demand in the next two years is estimated to be around 5,200 MW against the current estimate of 4,400 MW in summer.' Narayanaswami told IANS in an interview.

'The city's power woes will be solved for several years to come.'

Capacity building on the electricity front is a priority concern for the city government. The city government intends to spend over Rs.45 billion on energy during 2007-12, while over Rs.6.15 billion would be spent in the new fiscal.

Though the Commonwealth Games are to be held during Oct 3-14, 2010, when the power demand is normally not very high, the government is leaving nothing to chance. It has already secured a plan outlay of Rs.100 billion for the next fiscal.

'The city's peak hour demand is unlikely to cross the 6,000 MW mark in the near future. So around 7,000 MW power capacity puts us in a very comfortable zone,' said Narayanaswami, who had served the state government as its chief secretary.

'In the next couple of years, the city will get power from the Damodar Valley Corp, National Thermal Power Corp, the Dadri power plant, the Jhajhar plant and the Pragati power plant - these total 4,240 MW.'

The government also intends to get 1,800 MW from local sources in addition to the existing installed power generation capacity of 932 MW. The government will also initiate certain corrective measures to streamline power supply.

'The transmission and distribution loss is being effectively addressed - it was around 49 percent in 2007-08 against the national figure of 30-31 percent. We are serious about making Delhi a power surplus city,' Narayanaswami said.

The government is also looking at a couple of new projects from the centre's capacity addition programme for the 11th Five Year Plan period (2007-12). At the moment, the city stands to get 750 MW from the upcoming power plant at Jhajhar in Haryana.

Officials also point out that while central government had fixed the capacity addition of 78,577 MW for the 11th Plan period, no project had been earmarked for Delhi.

'Efforts are on to get some projects in the city-state territory,' said a senior government official, requesting anonymity.

'Being the national capital, Delhi should get preference so that the basic needs of the people are fulfilled. Electricity is an area where the state government cannot do much if the required support does not come in from other quarters.'

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