

## **Power Crisis in Jharkhand Should Now Be Mitigated**

***-MP Parimal Nathwani***

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**Ranchi: May 31, 2009:** With the Congress-led UPA government at the helm, power crisis in Jharkhand was likely to be eased as it would provide impetus to implement Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme in right earnest. Mr. Parimal Nathwani, rajya sabha MP from Jharkhand, expressed hope while commenting on the grim power situation in Jharkhand. I will also make efforts at my level to help the situation, he said.

Despite launching of several projects, the people remained bereft of power due to poor or no implementation, said Mr. Nathwani in a press statement. He was unhappy that as many as 20,000 villages of the State were sans electricity despite Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme in vogue since several years. It was high time the State Government made both short-term and long-term plans for power requirement of the State which was inevitable for development, said Mr. Nathwani.

Mr. Parimal Nathwani extensively toured different parts of the state during his recent visit to monitor progress of several welfare works initiated by him under MPLAD schemes in tribal belts and Islamnagar's development with his own fund. When asked to comment on power situation in the State, the MP astonished that the State could not produce a single additional megawatt in last eight years. He appeared upset that despite 27 MoUs the State Government entered into with mega companies such as Tata Power, Kolkata Electric Supplies Company, NTPC, DVC, Jindal Steel and Power etc; no land could be made available to these companies in last five years.

He said the way demand of power was increasing in the State; it would need 1500 megawatt power in coming three years and added that even if 25% of 74 MoUs worth Rs. two lakh crores of the State Government was realized then also the State would need 3500 megawatt in next five years, Mr. Nathwani added.

Referring to the huge potential available in the State, Mr. Nathwani said Tenughat alone held adequate water and coal to generate 1500 megawatt. Tender procedure was initiated for 630 megawatt unit there but work could not begin and tender was cancelled as a consequence, he said. He added that former prime minister Mr. Atal Bihari Bajpai laid foundation for 1000 megawatt hydro power project at Karnapura in 1999 but the land could not be made available.

The state lagged behind even in refurbishing existing power plants, he said talking about 30 year old Patratu power plant. Despite the name-plate capacity of 840 megawatt, it was generating only 100 to 140 megawatt power; Mr. Nathwani said and added it needed total overhaul. The power generation capacities at TVNL, PTPS and Sikdari power plants also remained under-utilized compared to earlier years. Expansion of TVNL was blocked just for a want of a counter guarantee, he said.

MP Mr. Nathwani suggested that drawing a comprehensive plan keeping in view the present and future needs of power in the State was essential. Not only that, the immediate restructuring, reorganizing, repairing, renovating and debottlenecking of the existing power units could also be taken up simultaneously so that generation of power in these units could be raised to the level of their respective installed capacities, he said. Further, he emphasized the need of timely maintenance of transmission lines and towers as they all passed through discerning terrains and forests; and storms and wind damaged them during rainy season.

Mr. Nathwani expressed hope of a better power situation in the days to come, if sincere, concerted and combined efforts were made with determination and commitment. But it was also essential that the State administration take up rural electrification works and initiate implementation of the power MoUs entered into by the State in right earnest, he added.

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