

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2957
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2016

**EFFECT OF RISE IN RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION ON
THERMAL
POWER PLANTS**

2957. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM:

Will the Minister of **POWER**
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether thermal power plants are operating just above 50 per cent of their capacities triggering a debate within the industry on whether the country really needs planned addition of 175 gigawatts of renewable energy;
- (b) whether Government has taken note of the warning issued by experts that any further surge in renewable energy capacity would stress thermal power plants and erode their margins; and
- (c) whether according to global norms, countries with high renewable energy generation capacity have thermal power facilities operating at lower levels with PLF coming down at around 60 per cent?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER,
COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c) : The average Plant Load Factor (PLF) of thermal power plants (coal/lignite), during 2016-17 (April – November, 2016), was 59.48%. Globally in developed countries, the thermal power plants are operating at around 50% PLF. Further, addition of 175 Gigawatts of renewable energy besides providing energy security would also help in meeting India's commitment towards reduction of carbon emission.

Government had constituted a committee to address issues related to large scale integration of renewables. The committee's recommendations are under implementation.
