

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.949
ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026

DRAFT NATIONAL ELECTRICITY POLICY 2026 & DISCOM REFORMS

949 # SHRI MANAN KUMAR MISHRA:
SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE:
SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE:

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

- (a) whether Government has prescribed timelines for all State DISCOMS to submit local Resource Adequacy plans under the Draft National Electricity Policy (NEP) 2026 guidelines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the specific benchmarks utilized to monitor the transition of State Transmission Utilities into independent transmission planning entities in the current financial year; and
- (d) the manner in which Government proposes to encourage DISCOMS to replace old thermal power plants for direct steam utilization in local industrial processes?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) & (b) : Ministry of Power circulated the Draft National Electricity Policy (NEP), 2026 on 20.01.2026 for stakeholder consultation. The draft policy, inter alia, proposes a structured Resource Adequacy framework at the national, State, and distribution utility levels to ensure reliable 24x7 power supply. It proposes that the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), in consultation with the relevant State Government departments and other stakeholders, shall prepare national-level Resource Adequacy Plans (RAPs) for generation and transmission to ensure adequate reserve margins and grid reliability. State Load Dispatch Centres (SLDCs) and distribution licensees shall prepare Resource Adequacy Plans at the State and distribution utility levels, aligned with the national plans.

(c) : Draft NEP, 2026 proposes that, at the intra-State transmission level, the State Government should separate the functions currently performed by the State power transmission utility by establishing an independent entity to discharge the functions of the State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) and the State Transmission Utility (STU). The existing transmission utility would continue to function as the Transmission Service Provider (TSP). However, the Draft Policy does not prescribe any specific benchmarks for monitoring this transition.

(d) : Draft NEP, 2026 provides that existing coal-based thermal power plants should, wherever feasible, be retrofitted for flexible operation and integrated with energy storage systems to support the integration of variable renewable energy. It further proposes that steam generated from thermal power plants may be directly utilised for applications such as district cooling and industrial processes to improve system flexibility and facilitate greater integration of variable renewable energy.
