

Chandigarh, 26 June – In order to ensure adequate, reliable and scheduled power supply to agriculture and domestic consumers in the State, Haryana Government has decided to restrict power supply to industries till June 30. The industrial consumers will be supplied power for eight hours daily till July 1 2009.

While addressing a press conference here today, Haryana Power Minister, Mr Randeep Singh Sujewala said that the power demand and availability position would be reviewed on July 1. He said that the State has witnessed above 15 per cent load growth of power in recent past against the National average of 8 per cent. Though, the Government had made sufficient arrangements to procure power from all available sources but early sowing of paddy by farmers, unprecedented hot weather and delayed monsoon were the reasons of shortage of power in the State. Punjab and Haryana have witnessed 67% less rainfall in June 2009 compared to last year.

He said that with this decision the State would be able to increase supply by about 90 lakh units of electricity daily to agriculture and domestic sector.

The Power Minister appealed to the Industries Associations to bear with the emergent situation and assured them that the Government would review the situation on 1st of July 2009.

Giving details of the power regulatory measures, he said that in the area of UHBVN, comprised of operation circles in Ambala, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Panipat, Karnal, Rohtak, Sonapat, Jind and Jhajjar the industries would get power supply from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. daily. He said that a load equal to five per cent of the normal load would be allowed to the industries for lighting purposes at the time of power cut during night.

In areas of DHBVN the industrial and independent industrial feeders in its area would now get power supply for eight hours daily. He said that the Nigam has divided industries in two zones putting the operation circles Faridabad, Bhiwani and Narnaul in zone-1 and operation circles Gurgaon, Hisar and Sirsa in zone-2. He said that zone 1 would get power from 1 A.M.

to 9 A.M. on odd dates and from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. on even dates and zone-2 would get power from 1 A.M. to 9 A.M. on even dates and from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. on odd dates.

While giving details of power procurement he said that the State would be spending almost Rs 1700 crore for arranging power during the paddy season. He said that 350 to 360 lakh units of electricity would be purchased daily in the month of July, 200 lakh units of electricity daily in the month of August and about 285 lakh unit of electricity daily in the month of September to ensure reliable supply to the consumers of the state during the paddy season.

He said that the State had purchased power ranging from Rs 3 to Rs 12 per unit in the month of June 2009 to cater to the needs of the consumers.

In view of the unprecedented low inflows and depletion of water levels in BBMB reservoirs, Haryana would get 10 lakh units of less electricity from today from BBMB, he added.

Mr Surjewala said that all the power generating units of the thermal plants of Haryana Power Generation Corporation Limited were producing optimum power. The plant load factor of some generating units was 100 to 102 per cent which was comparable with the best power generating units of the country.

He further stated that the aggregated technical and commercial losses have decreased in both the discoms by four to six per cent. A time bound action plan had been framed to reduce the losses and was being implemented. It has been targeted to bring down the losses to 15 per cent in the next four to five years.

Financial Commisioner and Principal Secretary, Power, Mr Madhusudan Prasad, Chairman Haryana Power Utilities, Mr O S Lohchab , Managing Director, Haryana Power Generation Corporation, Mr Sanjeev Kaushal and Managing Director, Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam, Mr Vijayendra Kumar were also present.