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PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE OF SELECTED POWER GENERATING COMPANIES OF INDIA: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY

NASIR RASHID RESEARCH SCHOLAR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY ANNAMALAI NAGAR

DR. B. MANIVANNAN
ASST. PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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ABSTRACT

After the major policy shift from a close economy to an open economy and the adoption of policy of liberalisation, privatization and globalization after 1991, India has accomplished a spectacular growth in industrial sector and attain the position of second fastest growing economy of the world subsequent to China. Consequently, demand of energy has increased tremendously. The demand of energy has grown at an average of 3.6 percent per annum over the past 30 years and it is expected to cross 950,000 MW by 2030. This paper firstly presents the overview of Indian power sector followed by analysis of requirement of power, Generation and Capacity of power sector in India.

KEYWORDS

economy, liberalisation, globalisation, privatization, demand.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CEA : Central Electricity Authority
CU : Capacity Utilization
GDP : Gross Domestic Product
KWH : Kilo Watt per Hour
MU : Million Units
MW : Mega Watt

NHPC : National Hydro electric Power Corporation limited

NLC : Neyvely Lignite Corporation Limited

NTPC : National Thermal Power Corporation Limited

SEB : State Electricity Boards
T&D : Transmission and Distribution
TPC : Tata Power Corporation

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In India, the power sector is viewed as a public utility and basic infrastructure. While undergoing a transition, from a controlled environment to a competitive market driven regime, it has to provide affordable, reliable and quality power at reasonable prices to various segments of consumers in the economy. With a demand of over 1.2 billion people and increasing, the development of such a system of power supply is crucial for the development of the economy. Competition is increasingly understood to enhance production, efficiency, and consumer welfare in almost all sectors of economies across the world. Policy makers also seem to embrace competition as a process by which the most productive firms win. The political structure of the sector is well organised, with statutory bodies at the Central and the State levels managing generation, transmission, and distribution, but their autonomous functions are influenced by pressure from state governments. India has emerged as the fastest growing major economy in the world in 2015-16. The improvement in India's economic fundamentals accelerated in 2015 with the combined impact of strong government reforms like 'Make in India', 'Digital India', 'Smart Cities', 'Skill India' and 'Start up India', as well as, RBI's inflation focus, which was supported by global commodity prices.

As the population of an economy grows, so does the demand for electricity to satisfy the needs of the requirement. In India, a vast and growing population and limited natural resources leads to an ever increasing demand for energy. The demand of energy has grown at an average of 3.6 percent per annum over the past 30 years and it is expected to cross 950,000 MW by 2030. India's annual energy generation increased from about 190 billion KWh in 1986 to more than 680 billion KWh in 2006. Economic growth and the resultant demand for technologies and electric appliances further escalate the demand for power. Therefore, India needs to undertake measures to augment the current resource base and energy supply to meet the population's demands for electricity. It is imperative to implement a consistent energy policy and, simultaneously, relentlessly pursue increases in energy efficiency and conservation. With the smart grid context, renewable non variable resources such as pump storage, geothermal, biomass and hydro are used more than before. More generation from renewable variable sources, such as wind and solar energy can be added to improve the efficiency of power value chain in India. Looking from a long term perspective India would need 3870TWh of electricity by 2030 which implies CAGR of 7% from 2005-30. According to McKinsey report (2008), to meet India's growing power demand an investments of US\$600 billion will be necessitated across value chain. This provides several significant and rewarding opportunities across the value chain setting up group captive plants, investment in over-sized captive plants by players in process industries, resource holders could consider integrating forward to realize higher prices for their resources, capacity expansion would lead to power trading on a more regular basis as volumes are increasing tremendously irrespective of prices and it can provide the opportunity of creating a permanent revenue stream. Positive future outlook of power sector also provides an opportunity in terms of expanding current capacity or fully fledged entry into power sector given that they have considerable expertise in power sector. Players will need to develop business models which can leverage on opportunities and allows overcoming the key risks associated with Indian power market in order to create sustainable value. If successful, power sector of India will be able to fullfill its ambitious target of "Electric Power for All".

1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The power sector is endeavouring to meet the challenge of providing adequate power needed to fuel the growing economy of the country. As the Indian economy continues to surge ahead, its power sector has been expanding concurrently to support the growth rate. The demand for power is growing exponentially and the scope for the growth of this sector is immense. The power centre units have targeted capacity addition of 100,000 megawatt (MW) each in the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) and 13th Five Year Plan (2017-22). However, this growth of the power sector has to be within the realms of the principles of sustainable development. While India certainly needs a huge jump in its electricity supply to sustain its rapid economic growth and meet the growing demand, it needs to make every effort to efficiently manage all stages of production. Therefore, focus should be on maximizing efficiency in the entire electricity chain, which has the duel advantage of conserving scarce resources and minimizing the effect on the environment.

The power sector plays a crucial role in industrialization and urbanization of India and faces challenges in absorbing high cost of inputs. It plays a socially responsible role in bridging rural-urban disparities by improving provision of affordable commercial energy access. In order to sustain high economic growth power will continue to play an integral role. Indian power sector has made considerable progress in the last decade and has evolved from a nascent market to a developing market led by policy reforms and increased private sector participation. The Indian power market is substantially dissimilar from power markets elsewhere in the world; its very nature poses unique challenges in the development of the market and the product as well. Challenges do exist in the sector, which India has to overcome, to evolve from a developing market to a matured market.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

The study is purely based on secondary data and the data have been collected from published Annual reports of the leading power generation companies of India like, NTPC Ltd, Tata power ltd, NHPC Ltd and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. The study covers a period of 5 years from 2011-12 to 2015-16 and Secondary data sources were used to gain a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the power sector in India. The researcher has selected above mentioned power generating companies for the study by random sample method among the top ten power generating companies in India. The study will help to examine that, how power sector operates presently and what is required to improve the existing capacity utilization of power sector in Indian. The researcher collects the relevant literatures for analyze the production aspects from various text book, articles, newspaper and related website.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study seeks to achieve following objective:

- 1. To study the prominent power requirement of power sector in India.
- 2. To examine the Generation and Capacity of leading power companies in India

1.5 PROFILE OF THE SELECTED POWER COMPANIES

The profile of the power company's reveals the basic information pertaining to the establishment and generation of power. The profile contains the introduction, history, establishment, performance and other related information for the users. To form the profile of the study makes the research work easy and understood for the target audience or the viewers. The profile explains the behaviour of the company and promotes the research work to be carried by the researcher.

1.5 (A) NATIONAL THERMAL POWER CORPORATION

National thermal power Corporation was established as a public sector power utility by Government of India on November 1975. NTPC core business is engineering, construction and operation of power generating plants, it also provides consultancy in the area of power plant construction and power generating companies in India and Abroad. It played a key role in the development of power sector contributing sixth largest thermal power generator in the world and the second most efficient utility in terms of capacity utilization. NTPC is India's largest energy conglomerate with the total installed capacity of the company is 48028 MW. NTPC is one of the nine initial Navarathna companies and granted it, enhanced autonomy in making financial and other decisions including the freedom to engage in investment capital expenditures.

1.5 (B) NATIONAL HYDROELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION

NHPC Limited (formerly National Hydroelectric Power Corporation), a Govt. of India Enterprise, was incorporated in the year 1975 with an authorised share capital of Rs. 2,000 million and with an objective to plan, promote and organise an integrated and efficient development of hydroelectric power in all aspects. Later on NHPC expanded its objects to include development of power in all its aspects through conventional and non-conventional sources in India and abroad. The total installed capacity of the company is 18386 MW. NHPC ltd is engaged in electricity generator by hydro electric power plants and it also engaged in contracts, project management and consultancy works.

1.5 (C) TATA POWER

TPC was established in 1915. It is the pioneer in the generation of electricity in India and is the largest Private Sector Integrated Utility in the country having approximately 9432 MW capacity with presence in Generation, Transmission, and Distribution. TPC has a presence in all areas of the power sector including thermal, hydro, solar, wind, transmission and distribution. Tata Power owns, operates and maintains thermal power plants in several Indian states, including Maharashtra, Karnataka and Jharkhand. It provides reliable and economic power supply to the city of Mumbai, the commercial capital of India.

1.5 (D) NEYVELY LIGNITE CORPORATION OF INDIA

The NLC is a Government owned lignite mining and power generating company of India, and the company whole process of lignite mining is mechanized and it operates largest open pit lignite mines in India, with 24 MT of lignite at present. The present installed capacity of the company is 2740 MW. The company also supplies large quantity of sweet water to Chennai from aquifers in lignite mines. NLC was established in 1956 and it operates three thermal power plants in Neyvely Tamil Nadu. The company has inferred a status of "Navaratna" in the year 2011.

1.6 POWER POSITION OF INDIA

Planning of using the manufacturing capacity to turn out the highest quality production while maximizing profit is a key to the success of the business, Capacity utilization depends on market demand and on scheduling production for the most efficient use of your facilities. A structured approach to capacity planning lets you use capacity utilization rates to determine when you need to expand capacity to satisfy increasing demand for your products. Unless your planning compensates, peaks in capacity utilization can damage both production quality and profitability. When you see a demand peak approaching through an increase in orders for your product, you have to delay deliveries so that you can smooth the effect on firm's production schedule. Peaks that surpass the normal maximum capacity lead to problems in production that affect production quality and overtime that reduces profits. Managing your demand through price adjustments to reduce demand during peaks and increase demand during troughs balances your schedule and achieves maximum profitability.

TABLE NO. 1: POWER POSITION OF INDIA

Year	Power Requirement (Mu)	Power Available (Mu)	Power Shortage (Mu)	Percentage of Shortage (%)
2010-11	861591	788355	73236	8.5
2011-12	937199	857886	79313	8.5
2012-13	995557	908652	86905	8.7
2013-14	1002257	959829	42428	4.2
2014-15	1068923	1030785	38138	3.6
2015-16*	748676	731445	17231	2.3

Source; Compiled by the researcher from the annual reports of the Ministry of Power 2015-16.

*upto November

The energy requirement during the year 2010-11 was 861591Mu's (Table No. 1). Energy deficit remained same on a year-on-year basis in 2011-12 at 8.5 per cent whereas the Peak load demand increased by 6.31 per cent and the peak load deficit has been raised upto 10.6 per cent in 2011-12 from 9.8 per cent over the previous year. During 2012-13, the percentage of power shortage has been stepped upto 8.7 per cent, whereas in the next years of the study period the percentage is decreasing and reached to 2.3 per cent in the year of 2015-16. This shows that the Indian power sector is engaged in order to full fill the demand of electricity in future, India's GDP is expected to grow at 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent, in order to sustain the growth in GDP and bring it around 9 per cent, India needs to add power generation capacity commensurate with this pace since growth of power sector is strongly co-related with the growth in GDP and going forward it is expected that supply will create further demand. India in order to sustain its plus 8 per cent growth rate until 2030 requires its power supply to be ramped up by more than four times of the current levels. While it is a challenge to improve power generation as the sector continues to suffer transmission and distribution (T&D) losses as high as 25-30 per cent.

1.7 POWER GENERATION IN INDIA

Electricity generation has been made a non-authorized activity and the techno-monetary leeway from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has been discarded for any power plant, with the exception of hydro-electric power stations over certain measure of capital investment. The arrangement of direct deal if power by the generators, when and where permitted, would advance more IP support in the power generation as these buyers are more reliable and bankable contrasted with any SEB. In any case, the act accommodates inconvenience of an additional charge by the administrative body to make up for a few misfortunes in cross-appropriation income to the SEB because of direct offer of power by generators to the buyers. While removal of entry barriers too captive generation is likely to erode the cross-subsidy base of the electric utilities and there by exert pressure to reduce the level of cross-subsidies in tariffs, advancement of captive power is likely to result in suboptimal use of resources and systems. Proliferation of grid connective control plants could also lead to system instability, difficulties in grid management and energy accounting and increase in related disputes.

TABLE NO. 2: GENERATION OF POWER IN MU's

Year	NTPC	% age	NHPC	% age	NLC	% age	TaTa Power	% age
2011-12	22207	18.97	18683	18.37	18789	19.25	15230	8.14
2012-13	23203	19.82	18923	18.60	19902	20.39	34682	18.54
2013-14	23328	19.93	18386	18.08	19988	20.48	42809	22.89
2014-15	24126	20.61	22038	21.67	19729	20.22	47200	25.24
2015-16	24198	20.67	23683	23.28	19182	19.66	47106	25.19
Total	117062	100	101713	100	97590	100	187027	100

Source; Compiled by the researcher from the annual reports of the power companies of India

The demand for the power is increasing continuously all over the periods, so the power generating companies need to increase maximum use of full capacity in order to meet the acquired demand of power sector. The shortage of the power is the most influencing factor of the power sector of India this is due to the heavy loss of transmission and distribution, and theft of power. The above Table No. 2 reveals the power production of the leading power generating companies of India, and the percentage were tested to examine the growth of the companies, it was observed that the production of the NTPC is continuously increasing during the study period while as the production of the NHPC shows the increasing trend but except 2013-14 it was decreased. This decrease was mainly because of the complete shutdown of 280 MW Dhauliganga Power Station, Uttarakhand, due to flooding of power house by flash floods. The shortfall in generation was also attributable to poor hydrology during the year in some of the Power Stations. The growth of the power production of the NLC shows the increasing trend in first two years but remaining years it shows the decreasing trend, the reason for shortfall in the generation and export as compared to the previous year was mainly on account of operation of units of Barsingsar TPS at lower load due to technical problems and that one Unit of TPS-I (100 MW) was under stoppage between 20th May 2014 and 13thAugust 2014 due to dislodgement of HP heater shell affecting the generation. The Tata power company production is increasing all over the study period, it shows positive approach of profitability toward the company.

1.8 CAPACITY UTILIZATION OF POWER COMPANIES

Capacity utilization (CU) has attained significant attention in the literature as it mirrors both the use of scarce resources as well as the state of demand. Studies of capacity utilization in the Indian manufacturing sector have observed the existence of chronic excess capacity. However most of these conclusions are based on installed capacity utilization (or capital utilization), and therefore, the crucial link between underlying economic theory and the measure of CU used is weak. Even in the context of developed countries, it is shown that capital is idle most of the time which cannot be considered as under-utilization of optimal capacity. Persistent under-utilization of optimal capacity appears to be puzzling in view of the fact that firms are expected to optimize through their decisions on capacity creation and utilization.

India occupies 5th position in the world as far as installed capacity is concerned with a total installed capacity of 205,340 MW as on 30th June 2012. Captive Power Plants generate an additional 31,500 MW. Thermal Power Plants constitutes 66 percent of the installed capacity, Hydroelectric about 19 per cent, and rest being a combination wind small hydro, biomass, waste-to-electricity, and nuclear. India generated 855,000 million units of electricity during fiscal year 2011-12.

TABLE NO. 3: CAPACITY OF POWER COMPANIES IN MW

Year	NTPC	% age	NHPC	% age	NLC	% age	TaTa Power	% age
2011-12	32712	17.79	3775	16.60	2740	18.64	5299	13.17
2012-13	35882	19.51	4050	17.81	2740	18.64	8521	21.18
2013-14	37107	20.18	4857	21.36	2740	18.64	8584	21.34
2014-15	38202	20.77	4987	21.93	3240	22.04	8726	21.69
2015-16	40012	21.76	5067	22.29	3240	22.04	9100	22.62
Total	183915	100	22736	100	14700	100	40230	100

Source: Compiled by the researcher from the Annual Reports of the power companies of India

The capacity utilization indicators widely used in the electricity generation industry, which may be useful to recall the definition of the generation load factor or capacity factor. The factors that influence the progress the power sector of India like, in adequate supply due to slow pace of capacity addition, operational efficiency and old aged power plants structure. The Government of India need take proper attention to improve the policies of the power sector in order to development of the Indian power sector. The above Table No. 3 shows capacity of leading power generating companies of India, it was examined by the researcher that the intake capacity of power generating companies is increasing all over the study period which is good indication for Indian power sector. The researcher suggests that the power companies should go for the maximum in order to improve the health of the Indian power sector.

1.9 FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE STUDY

- 1. The power production of the NTPC shows the increasing like, 18.97 per cent, 19.82 per cent, 19.93 per cent, 20.61 per cent and 20.67 per cent.
- 2. During the year 2013-14 the growth of power productions is decreasing, due to the shortfall in generation of poor hydrology by sample Power units. So the researcher suggests that the company should improve the production of power with different sources of generating power.
- 3. The power production of the NLC are increasing like, 2011-12 and 2012-13, while as remaining years it was decreasing. This is due to unprecedented rainfall and mega floods during 2015. It affected the entire operation of NLC Ltd., and also the power generation.

- 4. The power generation of the Indian power sector is declined due to on account of operation of units of NLC, Barsingsar TPS at lower load due to technical problems and that one Unit of TPS-I (100 MW) was under stoppage between 20th May 2014 and 13th August 2014 due to dislodgement of HP heater shell affecting the generation.
- 5. The capacity of all the selected power companies are not enough to meet the actual target for the Indian power sector, Present capacity of power sector is 314106.23 MW, whereas the total installed capacity of sample companies is 261581 MW, so the researcher suggests that sample company should increase the pace of capacity in order to meet the current requirements.
- 6. The power production position of the NTPC and Tata power are increasing during the study period, so the researcher understood that the management sample units of NTPC and Tata were utilised maximum capacity of the power plants.
- 7. The growth of the power production of the NLC are very poor, which is not a good indication for the power sector, so the researcher suggests that the company need to adopt modern technology in order to improve the power production.

1.10 CONCLUSION

Power sector in India is characterized by shortage power supply. Therefore, there exists huge challenge in front of power companies to produce, regulate and integrate power system in India. Indian Industries are the major consumers of electricity followed by Domestic sectors, Agriculture sector, commercials and railways. Thermal power production in India still exists to be highest contributor in power sector. But, with exhausting resources in the form of coal, the country must look forward the alternative resources in future to come. The researcher concludes that the overall production performance of NTPC is very good and Tata power is also performing better, while as the NHPC is fluctuates in their performance and the NLC performance are not good. The study will be useful to all the stake-holders of power industry and researcher for carrying out further research on financial health of any business concern.

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