

Public Relations Department, Chandigarh Administration
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Press Release

Chandigarh, December 31:- 2009 may have spelled power shortages all over the country, but Chandigarh had a different experience. While people in the neighboring states reeled under severe and prolonged power cuts, Chandigarhians were largely spared the bother, thanks to the keen efforts made by the Electricity Department of the UT Administration to meet the challenge.

"We went to the extent of buying power at the rate of Rs 10 per unit but ensured two things: power is made available to the consumers with very few outages, and that power tariff, fixed way back in 2005, is not raised," said Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Power-cum-Finance Secretary, UT Administration.

With a view to maintaining continuous power supply in the Union Territory, the Chandigarh Administration took some corrective and curative measures in 2009. Detailing the steps, Mr. Surinder Pall, Chief Engineer, Chandigarh, said that two transformers (1,000 kva and 300 kva) were installed to strengthen the distribution network, steps were taken to improve transmission, and line losses were cut down. In August, 2009, a new 66 kv sub-station was commissioned in Sector 56 to provide uninterrupted power supply to the southern sectors.

The Electricity Department spent Rs 35 crore on up-gradation of the existing and creation of new infrastructure. While Rs 27 crore was spent on 33 kv and above works, the remaining Rs 6.5 cr was spent on 11 kv and below works. The department plans to spend about Rs 14 crore in 2009-10 on further improving the infrastructure. The electricity wing of the department successfully reduced the line losses from 18.67 per cent in 2007-08 to 17.89 per cent in 2008-09, much lower as compared to other states. For 2009-10, the line losses have fixed at 17 per cent.

Conscious of the growing demand for power in Chandigarh which is fast emerging as a commercial hub--it has gone up from 150 mw per day in 2004 to 300 mw per day---the UT Administration has decided to upgrade the 33 kv sub-station to 66 kv in Sector 34 and 66 kv sub- station at IT Park. Besides, the existing transformers at 66 kv sub-station in Sector 1 and 12 were being reinstalled work for which had already been assigned to PGCL, Mr Surinder Pall said.

For 2010, the UT Administration has made arrangements for the supply of another 1,000 MWs. It has also negotiated long-term tie-ups with 15 state/central power projects to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

