

The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources oversees activities in mini-hydro, wind and solar energy, as well as small-scale local generation in rural areas.

Operating agencies

There are two major National Power Companies, the NTPC (thermal) and the NHPC (hydro), bulk-supply utilities which produce about 30 per cent of the country's electricity, and sell it largely to the State Electricity Boards. There are also two nationally-owned regional power companies, and the Nuclear Power Corporation.

The Powergrid Corporation of India was established in 1989 to create and operate an eventual national grid.

Financing agency

The recently established Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is intended to become the vehicle of choice for financing future projects in the public sector.

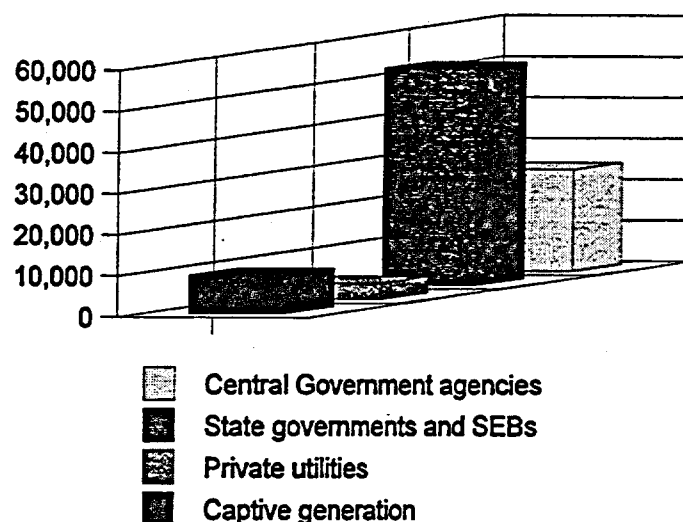
State Governments

About two-thirds of power generation, and virtually all transmission and distribution, is in the hands of 18 State Electricity Boards (SEBs), which also have tariff-setting and regulatory functions. Although nominally independent, they are for the most part under the political sway of the state governments, and are in precarious financial condition.

In between the Central and State systems are the Regional Electricity Boards, which manage India's five regional inter-connected systems (Eastern, Northern, North-Eastern, Southern and Western). The Regional Load Dispatch Centres are now

being taken over by the national Powergrid Corporation.

Figure 1.3 Ownership of Installed Capacity 1995 (MW)



Private power generation

There are five private utilities involved in power generation and distribution, dating from pre-independence days. These are: Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Ltd. (BSES) and Tata Electric Companies (TEC), both in the Bombay area; Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation (CESC); and Ahmedabad Electricity Company (AEC), and Surat Electric Company, both in Gujarat State. Together, they account for about 5 per cent of public power supplies. The continuing strength of these companies is living proof that private power can be viable in India.

Autogeneration or "captive" production of power by manufacturing and processing industries is a growing phenomenon, and now equals at least 10 per cent of India's publicly-available installed capacity. It is