

- i) to formulate short-term and perspective plans for power development;
- ii) to collect data concerning generation, distribution and utilisation of power, study of cost efficiency, losses, benefits, publication of reports and investigations;
- iii) to advise the State Governments, Electricity Boards, Generation Companies or any other agency engaged in generation or supply of electricity on such matters as would improve the operation and maintenance of their systems in an efficient and coordinated manner;
- iv) to promote and assist in the timely completion of schemes sanctioned in the Power Sector and to monitor the implementation of the schemes;
- v) to make arrangements for advancing the skills of persons in the generation and supply of electricity;
- vi) to promote research in matters affecting the generation, transmission and supply of electricity; and
- vii) to advise the Central Government on any matter on which its advice is sought or make recommendations which would help in improving the generation, distribution & utilisation of electricity.

e) National Thermal Power Corporation

Along with the National Hydro Power Corporation, the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) was begun by the Indian Government in 1975. Reporting to the Ministry of Energy, NTPC responsibility is the design/construction/operation of large thermal-based generating stations and related transmission systems. It sells this electricity to the State Electricity Boards who, in turn, make it available to users on their respective grids. As part of its transmission mandate, NTPC is the principal Central Government entity involved in the construction of an extensive 400 kv, extra high voltage power supply network.

The NTPC has currently an installed capacity of 8000 MW. It proposes to add another 10,000 MW in the next five years by way of nine coal-based and six gas-based thermal plants.

f) National Hydroelectric Power Corporation

Begun in 1975 along with the NTPC and with parallel responsibilities in hydro generation/transmission, the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has not developed nearly as fast as its thermal counterpart. One main obstacle has been connected with water use rights. In India these come under the authority of States who, while often not individually strong enough to exploit the resources, have at the same time been reluctant to part with this aspect of their constitutional base.

Currently, NHPC has a considerable number of projects (including transmission projects) in progress and once realized, will make NHPC a much larger player in the Indian energy picture.

g) Rural Electrification Corporation

This Central Government corporation was set up in mid-1969 and reported initially to the Ministry of Irrigation and Power; more recently, it has come under the authority of the Ministry of Energy. The corporation is the financing vehicle for Central Government-funded rural electrification projects; it on-lends to the State Electricity Boards with the objective of realizing the latter's rural electrification schemes. The corporation is said to be responsible for over half of all rural electrification financing in India. Though the corporation's board is evidently composed of Central Government appointees, senior management has a significant proportion of secondees from the State Electricity Boards (at one stage, 40 percent).

h) National Projects Construction Corporation

The National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC) is a joint venture of the Central and State