

power sources and back-ups are other options. There are no immediate solutions for power-shortage related problems. But companies should focus more on energy efficient products, which will help them reduce the consumption and improve power utilisation."

Energy efficient measures

The state has been a leader in the adoption of renewable energy sources for power supply. Maharashtra ranks second after Tamil Nadu in generation of renewable energy in the country. According to estimates, 7,852 MW of renewable energy potential exists in the state and the total renewable

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While it is an established fact that power plays a critical role in empowering the industries, when it comes to Maharashtra, this criticality gains all the more importance given the need and the potential. A need is felt for the whole value chain of power sector, be it generation, transmission or distribution, to come together and share best practices. There is also a need for a platform to showcase the latest products and services towards more energy efficient way of manufacturing. Industry giants like Calitron Calibration Laboratory, Modern Power Semiconductor, Red Line Industries among others will be showcasing their best-in-class products and services during this trade event in the manufacturing hub of Maharashtra. Engineering Expo Pune with its strong industry connect and its commitment towards filling this void will be showcasing the latest in energy efficient machinery and equipment. Slated to happen between **November 20-23, 2009 at Auto Cluster Exhibition Center, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Pune**, the expo is your window of opportunity to witness the latest engineering machines and methods.



I think the power scenario in Gujarat is far better than in Maharashtra. Besides, the assurance of single window clearance is good enough for companies to consider Gujarat as the prospective destination for setting-up business.

Vijay Saheta, director, Connectwell ◀

energy generated in the state during 2007-08 was 2,584 M kWh. Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA) in Dhule district develops Asia's single-largest wind farm with an installed capacity of 545 MW. The state also ranks second in India for its installed wind capacity after Tamil Nadu. Private wind power projects of nearly 1,820 MW have been installed in the state at 17 sites until October 2008. The investor-friendly policy environment and technical viability have facilitated private entrepreneurs to invest more than Rs 9,100 crore in the wind energy sector. The state has opened up the energy sector to renewable power alternatives, which reflects its commitment towards sustainable and eco-friendly power generation.

The state government is allowing industrial regions to start captive power plants and this has prompted many industries to set up their own captive plants to tackle demand-supply gap.

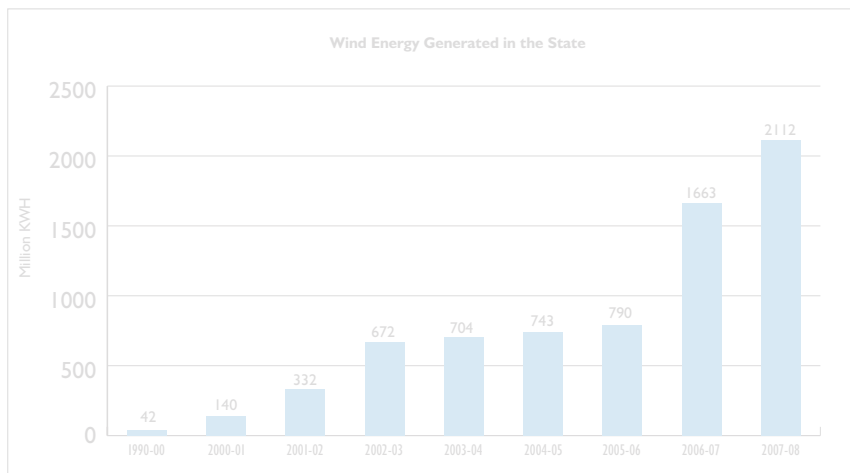
Public-private partnerships

The government has announced new schemes and partnership models to create an investor-friendly environment for private sector companies to invest in power infrastructure and support the growing electricity demands. In addition, the friendly policy-regulation environment ushered by the government is also attracting heavy investments in power sector in Maharashtra. These friendly policy regulations are also facilitating dynamic public-private partnership (PPP) models to combine forces for meeting

the increasing power demands of the expanding industrial sector in Maharashtra. Following post-Budget announcements, the future appears bright for the state's energy sector, which is gearing itself for an overhaul under increased private investments.

Power tariff

The power tariff slab in Maharashtra is competitive as compared to other states in India. Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC), a quasi-judicious regulatory body, is promoting competition, efficiency and economy in the power sector. It functions to regulate tariffs on power generation, transmission and distribution to protect the interests of the consumers and other stakeholders. "In Maharashtra, the power tariff rates are very competitive as we have an independent regulatory authority that judicially decides the power tariff. This ensures judicious tariff rates that are affordable to the distributors as well as consumers. The efforts of MERC have resulted in a stabilised tariff rate over the years, supported by regulations to streamline the load-shedding protocol," says Azeez Khan, principal secretary—industries, Government of Maharashtra. Higher power tariff forces the industries to replace old and inefficient processes with power efficient processes and technologies. Power reforms are a continuous process and with neighbouring states competing to attract businesses,



Source: Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2008-09

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