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CM Yogi Adityanath govt draws timeline to make four power plants operational in UP

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LUCKNOW: The Yogi Adityanath government has drawn a timeline to operationalise at least four key coal-fired thermal power projects to augment the power supply in the state in the next 12 months. In the first phase, a 660 Mw unit each in Obra and Jawaharpur Super Thermal Power stations are set to be made operational by the end of May to provide relief to the people in summer, sources in the energy department told TOI.

Managing director, UP Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (UPRVUNL), P Guru Prasad told TOI that "best efforts" were being made to get the projects started timely. "Necessary directions have been issued to the authorities to ensure that the projects start commercial operation within the set timeline," he said.

Situated in Malawan village of Etah, the 1,320 Mw Jawaharpur power station is fully owned by UPRVUNL. The 1,320 Mw Obra power plant, situated in Sonbhadra, around 125 km from Varanasi, too, is a 100% subsidiary of the Utpadan Nigam.

Prasad said that plans are also afoot to get a 660MW unit in Ghatampur operational by September later this year. The 1,980 MW project, situated in Kanpur, is a joint venture of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (51%) and UPRVUNL (49%). Sources said that a high-level team of officials from the Union power and coal ministry had recently visited the site and sought expediting the project. The upcoming projects could help the state government tide over the looming power crisis triggered by a steep rise in

electricity demand, essentially at the peak of summers. State government's move to get more and more villages electrified has further added to the rise in the demand for power.

Officials said that the demand for power in the upcoming summers is expected to touch 28,000MW mark, a rise of around 3,000MW over the previous year. At present, the demand for power has already touched a figure of over 18,000MW. Of this, power generation in UP accounts for around 11,000MW. The state-owned power plants have been generating 3,232MW, according to the data of the UP state power load dispatch centre. Sources said that the state government also planned to get the 660MW unit in Panki (Kanpur) operational by March next year. The lighting up of power plants would arm the ruling BJP to counter the opposition charge of not doing enough in the power sector. While the Obra project was initiated during the Mayawati government in 2011, the Jawaharpur and Ghatampur stations started during the previous Akhilesh Yadav regime between 2015 and 2016. Likewise, the Panki project was expedited after the BJP came to power in 2017.

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