

GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY FROM FOSSIL FUELS FALLS 24% IN APRIL 2020

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Generation from Thermal Plants in our country fell by 24% in April 2020 compared with the period from 15th to 21st March 2020, the week prior to the lock down in connection with COVID-19 pandemic. Analysis of the data available in the website of the National Load Despatch Centre shows that the daily average generation from Thermal plants during April 2020 fell to 2123 MU compared to the daily average generation of 2806 MU from these plants during the period from 15th to 21st March 2020. The reason for this decline in production of electricity is the reduction in Power demand in our country due to the lock down declared with effect from 25.03.2020 to check the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. The nation wide lock down announced for 21 days initially was further extended for 19 days and again for another 14 days i.e.; up to 17.05.2020. Lock down was prevailing in the country for the whole month of April.

The daily average power generation in India in April 2020 is 2908 MU. The generation prior to lock down was 3584 MU. The reduction in total power generation during April this year is 19%. The source wise daily average power generation in India before lock down and during the lock down period April 2020 is given below.

Table

SOURCE WISE DAILY AVERAGE GENERATION IN INDIA BEFORE & DURING LOCK DOWN (in MU)

SOURCE		PERIOD		Difference in Generation		% Share in Total Generation	
		15 th -21 st March 2020 (Before Lock down)	1 st -30 th April 2020 (During Lock down)	MU	%	Before Lock down	During Lock down
FOSSIL FUELS	COAL	2570.86	1904.97	(-) 665.89	(-) 25.9	71.72	65.51
	LIGNITE	87.14	76.40	(-) 10.74	(-) 12.32	2.43	2.63
	GAS, NAPHTHA & DIESEL	148.14	141.30	(-) 6.84	(-) 4.62	4.13	4.86
	TOTAL	2806.14	2122.67	(-) 683.47	(-) 24.36	78.28	73.00
NUCLEAR		124.57	112.53	(-) 12.04	(-) 9.67	3.48	3.87
HYDRO		312.29	352.43	(+) 40.14	(+) 12.85	8.71	12.12
RENEWABLEs		341.43	320.10	(-) 21.33	(-) 6.25	9.53	11.01
GRAND TOTAL		3584.43	2907.73	(-) 676.70	(-) 18.88	100.00	100.00

Source : InSDES compilation of Data available at https://www.posoco.in/Reports/Daily_reports

Daily average power generation from all sources except Hydro is lower than that before lock down. The generation from Coal fired plants fell 26% followed by Lignite (12.3%) Nuclear (9.7%), Renewables (6.25%) and Gas, Naphtha & Diesel (4.6%). The generation from Hydro electric plants was 12.85% higher in April compared to the week prior to lock down. This was possible because of the better storage position in the reservoirs in our country.

The share of electricity generated by combustion of Fossil fuels in India during April 2020 is 73%. This is 5.3% lower than the share prior to lock down. The reduction in daily generation from the fossil fuel sources during the month of April 2020 is 683.47 MU. Corresponding reduction in the emission of Carbon dioxide (CO₂) to the atmosphere is around 6lakh tonne per day.
