

Printed from

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

## India's power backup bill Rs 130,000cr a year

TNN 26 August 2009, 02:33am IST

NEW DELHI: It's not just suffering the blackouts. The cumulative cost of nationwide power outages is a staggering Rs 1,00,000 crore. That's the amount Indians spend on power back-up equipment like gensets, batteries and inverters, according to a study by Universal Consulting done for power company Wartsila India. Here's the message for policy makers: That money if collected from harassed power consumers is enough to put up power plants to generate 25,000 MW of electricity - almost 20% of the present generation level.

Besides, the country also spends Rs 30,000 crore every year to operate inefficient power back-ups using gensets which belch smoke and inverters that emit acid fumes. According to the study, because of the inefficient power back-up systems, the equipment release an additional 1.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide additionally every year.

Highlighting key findings of the study, Rakesh Sarin, MD of Wartsila India, a subsidiary of the Finland-based major, said a "reliability surcharge" of 50 paisa per unit, which is far less than the extra charges consumers are incurring to maintain the backup, can support rapid capacity build-up.

In one of the projections, Power Grid Corporation of India has estimated the value of lost opportunity for the country in 2008-09 at Rs 2,89,000 crore. In GDP terms, this means a loss of nearly 6%.

Sarin said the correlation between growth in GDP and addition to power generation capacity is close to 1. This means that to realize our ambition to grow by 9%, India needs power generation to grow by 9% annually after wiping out the substantial existing deficit.

On the brighter side, Sarin said, there are examples of consumers, like in Mumbai, who benefit from a 24x7 reliable power supply by paying a reliability charge. Consumers bear significant annual operating expenses for back-up power equal to almost one-third of the capital costs. The efficiency level of such equipment is often poor. Besides, fuels such as diesel are subsidized by the government, adding to the tax-payers' burden, he added.

Powered by Indiatimes

[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Life & Style](#) | [Hot on the Web](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Photos](#) | [Videos](#)

The Times of India

[Advanced Search](#)

Connect with us: [RSS](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [TOI Mobile](#) | [mPaper](#) | [ePaper](#)

Other Times Group news sites: [Indiatimes](#) | [The Economic Times](#) | [इकनॉमिक टाइम्स](#) | [ਓਐਨਲਾਈਨ ਟਾਈਮਜ਼](#) | [नवभारत टाइम्स](#) | [महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स](#) | [Mumbai Mirror](#) | [Times Now](#)

Living and entertainment: [iDiva](#) | [Bollywood](#) | [Zoom](#)

Networking: [itimes](#) | [Dating & Chat](#) | [Email](#)

Hot on the Web: [Hotklix](#)

Services: [Book print ads](#) | [Online shopping](#) | [Business solutions](#) | [Book domains](#) | [Web hosting](#) | [Business email](#) | [Free SMS](#) | [Free email](#) | [Website design](#) | [CRM](#) | [Tenders](#) | [Remit](#) | [Cheap air tickets](#) | [Matrimonial](#) | [Ringtones](#) | [Astrology](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Property](#) | [Buy car](#) | [eGreetings](#)

[About us](#) | [Advertise with us](#) | [Terms of use](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sitemap](#)

Copyright © 2009 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved. For reprint rights: [Times Syndication Service](#)

This site is best viewed with Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher, or Firefox 2.0 or higher, at a minimum screen resolution of 1024x768.