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SMS details of power cuts to government

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NEW DELHI: On a day when the city faced a power shortfall of up to 300MW in the morning hours leading to rotational load-shedding, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a power helpline number for reporting unscheduled power cuts. He said consumers can send details of unplanned outages via SMS to 9223166166 and the discoms will be penalized if they fail to provide a satisfactory explanation.

Sources said one unit of the Pragati power station stopped generating in the morning hours and generation from two central sector plants, Singrauli and Maithon, was also significantly reduced, leading to a sudden shortfall in power availability. The discoms were forced to arrange power from other sources, even while rotational load-shedding took place across Delhi.

"The affected unit of Pragati power plant resumed operations by 11am. We have a number of plants on 'back down' because demand is generally lower in winters," said a Transco official. The state load dispatch centre said the peak load was 3,798MW but generation from Delhi power plants at the time was only 793MW.

There were power cuts of 2-4 hours in the morning and the discoms admitted that they faced problems in meeting the sudden gap caused by the generation loss. The Delhi government, meanwhile, reiterated that it will not tolerate unscheduled power cuts without a satisfactory explanation. Kejriwal said he has sought details of the unscheduled and scheduled power cuts in Delhi from January 1 to January 10, 2014 as well as the corresponding data for the previous year to draw comparisons.

"The data of unscheduled power cuts we receive on the new helpline will be compiled daily and reports generated. The discoms will have to answer why it took place. All information of power cuts of the week will be made available on delhisldc.org," said Kejriwal.

The [government](#) announced a slew of measures against unplanned power cuts after Congress attacked it on the issue. Kejriwal said discoms that resort to unscheduled power cuts without viable explanations will be penalized. The CM hinted that the growing incidents of power cuts across Delhi could be the discoms' way of retaliating against a CAG audit, and that the government would not allow the power companies to get away with it.

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