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Engineers highlight infrastructure shortcomings

By Munza Mushtaq

The Institution of Engineers of Sri Lanka (IESL) yesterday expressed their great disappointment over the standard of the country's power, infrastructure and telecommunications facilities.

President of IESL, L.L.

Ratnayake told the Daily Mirror that, the present capacity to generate power is inadequate and should be increased by at least 50 %. He said if the generation of power in the national grid was not increased by 50 % the least, it would greatly harm the

country's industries.

"At present we are managing due to the emergency power plants. This is very costly. We need cost effective methods such as coal power as this is the most affordable source of power. We have also made these recommendations to the

government after our own in-depth studies," Prof. Ratnayake said.

He said the country's infrastructure also greatly lagged behind and was inadequate. It was sad that the country did not have a proper network of roads he said.

Even the railway system in the country did not maintain a good standard he said. According to him the only solution was to pump more money to the system. The more money one pumps to the system the more advanced the system would become.

"But the problem is, the government can allocate only a very limited amount, as the income the government gets has to be used to pay its debt instalments.

That was why we need private sector participation," he said.