

Thermal power stations now being operated at full capacity

Remedial measures if weather pattern remains same

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The thermal power stations of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) are now being operated at full capacity to fulfil over 75 per cent of the power demand due to sharp decline in the water levels of the major reservoirs, a Power Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

He said that the CEB had to activate the thermal power stations to supply around 11.81 million units of power on Sunday as the hydro power stations contributed only 4.9 million units. The required amount of

power units were 16.7 million. Due to the sharp decline in the water levels of the Luxapana, Mahaweli and Samanalawewa hydro electricity complexes the live storage capacities of the reservoirs has declined to 9 % at Castlereigh, 10 % at Maussakelle, 13 % at Kotmale, 18% at Victoria, 15 % at Samanalawewa, 62 % at Randenigala and 69 % at Rantambe.

The water levels have also reported below the spill level 14.9 m at Castlereigh, 18.031 m at Maussakelle, 28.4 m at Kotmale, 36.3 m at Victoria, 8.9 m at Randeni-

gala, 2 m at Rantembe, 26.6 m at Samanalawewa, the spokesman said.

The country's power requirement depend on 1,137 MW hydro electricity capacity and the 528 thermal power capacity. "We need to have around 2000 MW of installed capacity to fulfil daily requirement around 16 million units".

If weather pattern remains the same in the hydro catchment areas within the next two weeks too the CEB will have to take remedial measures to face the situation, the spokesman added.