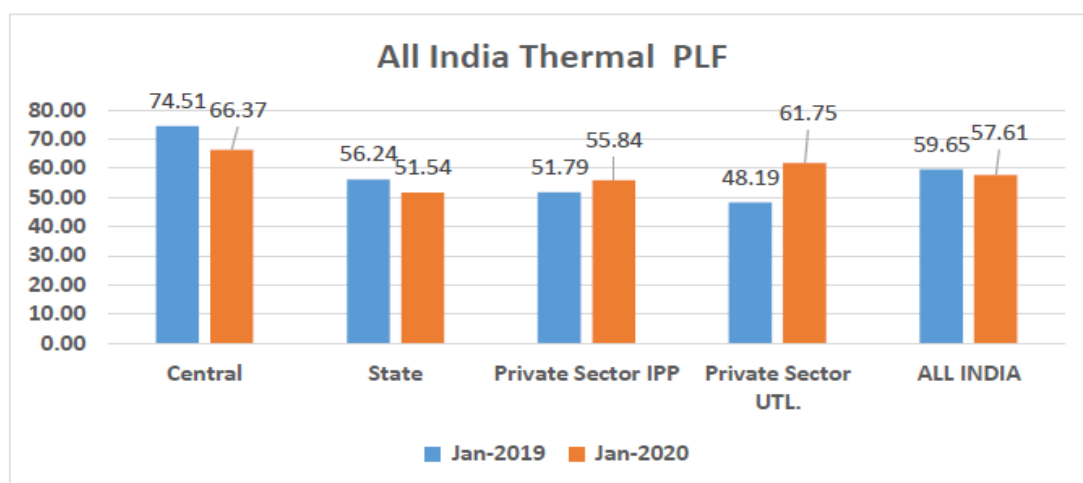
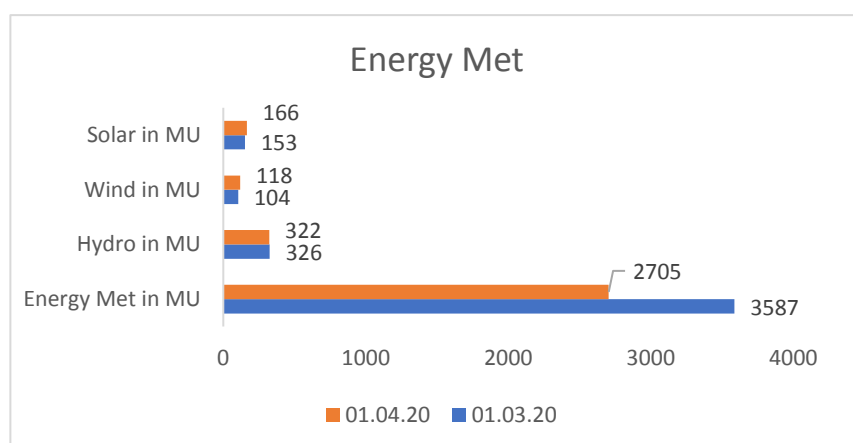
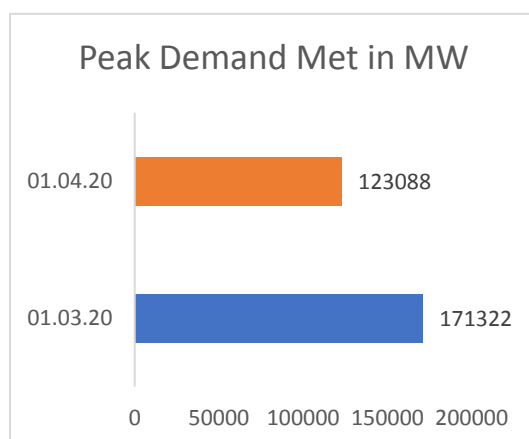


Electricity Demand, Renewable & Covid-19 Lockdown

Global crisis of Covid-19 is unprecedented and the consequent lockdown is beyond the control of developers of power projects/generators or power distribution companies. Social and economic activities have reduced, and so is the power demand. Comparing 1st April 2020 with 1st March 2020 it is evident that peak demand and Electric Energy Met have gone down by almost 28% and 25% respectively. Hydro power generation is almost same whereas wind and solar energy generation are increasing. If there is no RE curtailment, then Thermal generators have to operate at a level, say 75% of the existing.



All India thermal PLF was 57.61% in January 2020. If it reduces further to match the grid stability, large number of them would have to shut down, otherwise they would run below the prescribed technical minimum and thus may create dangerous situation for the grid and the plant as well. Cost of power production would go high.

Demand reduction due to Covid-19 is clearly a case of Force Majeure. It applies to Renewable Energy projects too. Electricity is certainly an essential service and has been exempted from the lockdown, but demand reduction is a force majeure situation caused by the lockdown and has to be handled collectively. Permitting RE to continue on must-run basis without curtailment during lockdown or even after that during the period of unusually reduced demand would be detrimental to the grid maintenance, power industry as well as for the country.

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