

REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA FOR THE
YEAR ENDED MARCH 2006, UNION GOVERNMENT (CIVIL) NO.2 OF 2007 –
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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
TROPICAL FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Excess expenditure on power consumption

Tropical Forest Research Institute (TFRI), Jabalpur (erstwhile Institute of Deciduous Forests), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, entered into an agreement with Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB) in September 1992 for supply of 250 KVA electricity for the office-cum-laboratory building for a period of two years. As per MPEB tariff schedule, the billing demand for a month was to be the actual maximum demand recorded during the month or 75 per cent of the contract demand whichever was higher. TFRI requested MPEB in January 1999 to enhance the contract demand from 250 KVA to 400 KVA in view of construction of new buildings.

The contract demand was accordingly revised upwards to 400 KVA with effect from July 2000. Review of consumption of electricity from July 2000 to November 2005 by Audit revealed that TFRI registered a maximum demand between 106.03 KVA and 220 KVA against the contract demand of 400 KVA. Though TFRI was registering less demand, it was paying for 188 KVA from March 1997 to June 2000 (except in May 2000) and 300 KVA from July 2000 to February 2005 being 75 per cent of the contract demand. Thus failure of TFRI to take timely corrective action to reduce the demand for power resulted in excess expenditure of rs.20.39 lakh on power consumption during March 1997 to May 2006.

