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HOW DO ELECTRICITY SHORTAGES AFFECT PRODUCTIVITY? EVIDENCE  
FROM INDIA

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### **ABSTRACT**

Endemic blackouts are a particularly salient example of how poor infrastructure might reduce growth in developing economies. As a case study, we analyze how Indian textile plants respond to weekly “power holidays.” We then study how electricity shortages affect all Indian manufacturers, using an instrument based on hydroelectricity production and a hybrid Leontief/Cobb-Douglas production function model. Shortages reduce average output by about five percent, but because most inputs can be stored during outages, productivity losses are much smaller. Plants without generators have much larger losses, and because of economies of scale in generator capacity, shortages more severely affect small plants.

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# 1 Introduction

One of the potential contributors to the large productivity gap between developed and developing countries is low quality infrastructure, and one of the most stark examples of infrastructure failures is electricity supply in India. In the summer of 2012, India suffered the largest power failure in history, which plunged 600 million people into darkness for two days. Even under normal circumstances, however, the Indian government estimates that shortages currently amount to about ten percent of demand at current prices, and many consumers have power only a few hours a day. In the 2005 World Bank Enterprise Survey, one-third of Indian business managers named poor electricity supply as their biggest barrier to growth. According to these managers, blackouts are far more important than other barriers that economists frequently study, including taxes, corruption, credit, regulation, and low human capital.<sup>1</sup>

This paper studies the effects of electricity shortages on manufacturing plants in India. One potential prior is that because electricity is an essential input - most factories cannot produce anything without electricity for lights, motors, and machines - shortages could significantly reduce output. On the other hand, precisely because the potential losses would be so large, many firms might insure themselves against outages by purchasing generators or otherwise substituting away from grid electricity. The limited existing evidence could support either argument. Foster and Steinbuks (2009), Zuberi (2012), and others argue that the cost of self-generation is relatively small, and Alam (2013), Fisher-Vanden, Mansur, and Wang (2013), and others highlight ways in which plants substitute away from electricity when shortages worsen. By contrast, Hulten, Bennathan, and Srinivasan (2006) argue that growth of roads and electric generation capacity accounts for a remarkable 50 percent of productivity growth in Indian manufacturing between 1972 and 1992.

There are three reasons why this question is difficult. First, the standard production function model needs to be adapted for the case of input shortages, when firms cannot procure electricity for a part of the year. Second, the necessary data are difficult to acquire: some industrial surveys do not have useful questions on electricity use, and more detailed firm-level datasets are often unrepresentative. Meanwhile, countries that have electricity shortages are often the same types of countries that do not record or disclose high-quality data on the performance of public infrastructure. Third, shortages are not exogenous to productivity. For example, rapid economic growth could cause an increase in electricity demand that leads to shortages, or poor institutions could lead to insufficient power supply and also reduce productivity. Either of these two mechanisms would bias causal estimates of shortages, albeit in opposite directions.

We begin by providing background on electricity shortages and industrial electricity use in India. First, there is significant variation in shortages within states over time, driven by weather, coal shortages, fluctuating hydroelectric production, and other factors. Second, Indian manufacturers self-generate approximately 35 percent of their electricity, more than twice the share in the United States. Third, because of economies of scale in generator capacity, self-generation is sharply in-

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<sup>1</sup>For a tally of responses, see Appendix Table A20.

creasing in plant size: while only 10-20 percent of plants with fewer than 10 employees self-generate, about 75 percent of plants with more than 500 employees do so.

We then present a production function model in which output is Leontief in electricity and a Cobb-Douglas aggregate of materials, capital, and labor. Shortages have very different effects on firms with vs. without generators. Firms that use generators face an increase in electricity costs (the *input cost effect*). This enters the profit function like an output tax and thus reduces demand for other inputs (the *output tax effect*). Even if these firms never stop production during shortages, productivity is lower due to the *input variation effect*: using different bundles of fully flexible inputs during outage vs. non-outage periods is less efficient than having a constant flow of production. Firms without generators shut down during shortages, which reduces output and causes waste of non-storable inputs (the *shutdown effect*). The waste reduces demand for non-storable inputs when firms foresee periods of higher shortages (the *shutdown tax effect*).

The empirical analysis begins with a case study of large textile manufacturers in Gujarat and Maharashtra, using data shared by Bloom *et al.* (2013). These plants face pre-scheduled “power holidays” once each week, and they respond either by self-generation or by shutting down, depending on the week. While these data include only 22 plants, all of which have generators, they give very clean estimates of the effects of shortages. The effects of these weekly “power holidays” are quite small: energy costs rise by 0.24 percent of revenues, and while physical output drops by 1.1 percent, productivity only decreases by 0.05 percent because 95 percent of inputs (both labor and materials) can be flexibly adjusted on power holidays.

We then broaden our scope to all Indian manufacturing plants using data from the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI). We use a difference estimator, exploiting changes in shortages within states over time. To address the potential endogeneity of shortages - for example, economic growth both increases manufacturing output and worsens shortages - we instrument with changes in electricity production from dams, which are driven by changes in the amount of water flowing into reservoirs. We exploit a version of the ASI with consistent plant identifiers dating to 1992, which allows an unusually long panel of Indian plants. To complement this longer panel, we gathered archival data from India’s Central Electricity Authority on shortages, reservoir inflows, generation by hydro and other plants, and other aspects of the Indian power sector.

Our instrumental variables estimates show that for plants that own generators, a one percentage point increase in shortages increases the share of self-generated electricity by 0.57 percentage points, which raises total input costs by 0.02 to 0.07 percent of revenues. Across all plants, a one percentage point increase in shortages decreases revenues by 0.68 percent. The accompanying loss of revenue productivity (TFPR), however, is much smaller: the effect is not statistically different than zero, and the confidence interval bounds it at no more than 0.29 percent. In 2005, the nationwide average shortage was 7.1 percent, and this is very close to the nationwide average shortage over our 1992-2010 sample. The empirical estimates multiplied by a 7.1 percent shortage translate into an input cost increase of 0.13 to 0.5 percent of revenues and a revenue loss of 4.8 percent.

The effects of shortages vary in ways predicted by the model. Only plants that self-generate experience an increase in total energy costs, while non-generators experience much larger revenue losses. Firms in industries with higher electric intensity are more exposed to shortages, experiencing a larger increase in energy revenue share and a larger decrease in output. The results are essentially identical under a battery of alternative specifications, including using fixed effects instead of differences, controlling for rainfall, using an alternative measure of shortages, constructing TFPR in different ways, omitting various controls, and trimming outliers with different tolerances.

We then use simulations calibrated to ASI plants and production functions to calculate the nationwide effects of the 7.1 percent shortage, holding capital stock constant. The average plant loses 4.6 percent of revenue and 1.6 percent of TFPR. The simulated effects on output and TFPR are economically similar and statistically indistinguishable from the empirical estimates, which builds confidence that the estimates are reasonable and that the model captures the first-order issues.

As with the empirical estimates, however, simulated effects differ starkly for plants with versus without generators: plants with generators see revenue and TFPR drop by 0.4 and 0.1 percent, respectively, while plants without generators experiences losses of 9.6 and 3.4 percent. For self-generators and non-generators, the reasons why output losses are larger than the percent of time shut down are the output tax and shutdown tax effects: shortages act like taxes that cause firms to reduce other inputs. These input reductions are also one reason why TFPR losses are much smaller than output losses; the other important reason is that when non-generators shut down, they lose output but only waste non-storable inputs. Thus, while electricity shortages are a large drag on manufacturing output, they do not in isolation explain much of the difference in productivity between India and more developed economies.<sup>2</sup>

Because our instrumental variables estimates are identified off of annual variation, they are likely to primarily identify “short-run” effects of shortages, i.e. holding generator capital stock constant. To extend this, we use additional simulations with simple assumptions about generator capital costs to endogenize each plant’s generator takeup decision. At the current level of shortages, these simulations confirm that despite the fact that generators largely ameliorate the negative effects of shortages on revenues, TFPR, and variable profits, generators are sufficiently costly that only a subset of plants should choose to purchase them. The simulations also show that increases in shortages have two offsetting effects on output. On the one hand, the “short-run” effects (holding generator stock constant) increase almost exactly linearly in shortages. On the other hand, more frequent outages induce more plants to purchase generators and continue production during power outages. This long-run effect of generator adoption substantially reduces the average impacts of shortages.

Finally, we also use the simulations to explore how electricity shortages differentially affect small versus large plants, which could distort the firm size distribution in developing economies. (See

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<sup>2</sup>See Banerjee and Duflo (2005), Hsieh and Klenow (2009), and others for discussions.

Tybout (2000) for a broader discussion.) Hsieh and Olken (2014) show that average products of labor and capital are significantly lower in small firms, and Hsieh and Klenow (2012) suggest that large vs. small plants may have differential access to power from the electric grid. We build on this idea, but we focus on a different channel: economies of scale in generator capacity. Our simulations show that effects of outages on revenues and TFP are 50 percent larger for plants with fewer than 100 employees compared to larger plants, primarily due to the fact that small plants are much less likely to own generators.

The remainder of this section discusses related literature. Section 2 provides background on the Indian electricity sector, the causes of electricity shortages, and manufacturers' responses to shortages. Section 3 details the production function model. Section 4 is the case study of textile manufacturing in western India, using data from Bloom *et al.* (2013). Sections 5 and 6 present the ASI data and empirical results. Section 7 details the counterfactual simulations, and Section 8 concludes.

## 1.1 Related Literature

Our paper builds on an extensive literature that estimates the economic effects of investment in electricity, transportation, and other types of infrastructure. One early group of studies examines the effects of infrastructure investment on growth in panel data from U.S. states, including Aschauer (1989), Holtz-Eakin (1994), Fernald (1999), Garcia-Mila, McGuire, and Porter (1996); see Gramlich (1994) for a review. Easterly and Rebelo (1993), Esfahani and Ramirez (2002), and Roller and Waverman (2001) carry out analogous studies using cross-country panels.

This literature has faced two basic problems. First, infrastructure spending is econometrically endogenous to economic growth. There could be reverse causality: fast growth increases tax revenues, which allow more infrastructure spending. There is also economic endogeneity: infrastructure may be specifically allocated to places that are growing more quickly or slowly. Second, using aggregate infrastructure spending or quantity as the independent variable often hides important variation in effects between infrastructure of different types or quality levels. In the Indian context, for example, spending on power plants does not necessarily translate into electricity provision, because plants are frequently offline due to mechanical failure or fuel shortages.

Our paper is part of a recently-growing literature that evaluates the effects of infrastructure by combining microdata with within-country variation generated by natural experiments. This includes Banerjee, Duflo, and Qian (2012), Donaldson (2012), and Donaldson and Hornbeck (2013) on the effects of railroads in China, India, and the United States, Duflo and Pande (2007) on irrigation dams in India, Jensen (2007) on information technology, Baisa, Davis, Salant, and Wilcox (2008) on the benefits of reliable water provision in Mexico, and Baum-Snow (2007, 2013), Baum-Snow, Brandt, Henderson, Turner, and Zhang (2013), and Baum-Snow and Turner (2012) on urban transport expansions in China and the United States. A subset of this literature focuses on electricity supply: Chakravorty, Pelli, and Marchand (2013), Dinkelman (2011), Lipscomb,

Mobarak, and Barham (2013), Rud (2012a), and Shapiro (2013) study the effects of electricity grid expansions, while Alby, Dethier, and Straub (2011), Foster and Steinbuks (2009), Steinbuks (2011), Steinbuks and Foster (2010), Reinikka and Svensson (2002), and Rud (2012b) study firms’ generator investment decisions. Several recent papers focus specifically on Indian electricity supply: Ryan (2013) estimates the potential welfare gains from expanding transmission infrastructure, Cropper, Limonov, Malik, and Singh (2011) and Chan, Cropper, and Malik (2014) study the efficiency of Indian coal power plants, and Abeberese (2012) tests how changes in electricity prices affect manufacturing productivity.

Three recent papers study the effects of blackouts on manufacturers. Fisher-Vanden, Mansur, and Wang (2013) show that when shortages become more severe, Chinese firms purchase more energy-intensive inputs, but they do not self-generate more electricity. Zuberi (2012) estimates a dynamic model of manufacturing production using data from Pakistan, showing how firms re-allocate production to non-shortage periods. Alam (2013) studies how India’s steel vs. rice milling industries respond differently to blackouts. Relative to these important papers, our study benefits from particularly clean data and identification: we have a clear case study using the high-quality textile plant data from Bloom *et al.* (2013), newly-gathered archival data on the severity of shortages across Indian states, and an instrument that addresses the endogeneity of blackouts with respect to growth. Our paper also benefits from the way that we integrate theory and empirics: our model formalizes the major channels through which shortages affect production, and the close correspondence between simulation and empirical results builds confidence in the estimates.

## 2 Background

### 2.1 Power Sector Data

Our power sector data are from India’s Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Many of the same types of data available online from the U.S. Energy Information Administration are also collected by the CEA. Unfortunately, however, the online data are incomplete, and the hard copies of some printed materials have been misplaced, so data have to be hand-collected from CEA staff. With the cooperation of CEA management and the help of research assistants in New Delhi, we were able to compile, digitize, and clean about 25 years of data for this and related projects. Table 1 details these power sector variables and other state-level data.<sup>3</sup>

The primary measure of electricity shortages is the percent energy deficit reported in the Load Generation Balance Report. Analysts at CEA and Regional Power Committees estimate the quantity that would be demanded for each state and month at current prices in the absence of shortages. The state-by-year sum is our “Assessed Demand” variable. “Shortage” is the percent difference between this counterfactual quantity demanded and the actual quantity supplied. In the 2011-2012

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<sup>3</sup>Throughout the paper, we use the word “state” to refer to both states and Union Territories.

fiscal year, nationwide shortage was 8.5 percent, and shortages average 7.2 percent over the sample period. The CEA also estimates “Peak Shortage,” an analogous measure of power shortage in peak demand periods. While (total kilowatt-hour) Shortage is more appropriate for our analysis, Peak Shortage and Shortage are highly correlated, with an  $R^2$  of 0.5, and robustness checks show that results are similar when we use Peak Shortage instead of Shortage.<sup>4</sup>

From an annual report called the Review of the Performance of Hydro Power Stations, we observe inflows into reservoirs behind 22 major dams covering about 40 percent of national hydro-electric capacity. From the CEA’s General Review, we observe each state’s total annual electricity generation by fuel type, including hydroelectric plants. From the General Review, we also collected total quantity of electricity sold by utilities to end users for each state and year.

Aside from these electricity market variables, our empirical analysis also uses weather and temperature data from the Meteorological Department of the National Climate Centre of India. These data provide daily average temperatures and rainfall at one-degree gridded intervals across India. Using state border coordinates, we associate the grid points with particular states to arrive at annual state-level measures. Cooling degrees is a commonly-used correlate of electricity demand; it is the difference between the day’s average temperature and 65 degrees Fahrenheit, or zero if the day’s average temperature is below 65.

## 2.2 Reasons for Systemic Shortages

As of February 2013, India had 214 gigawatts of utility-scale power generation capacity, or about one-fifth the US total (CEA 2013). Of this, 58 percent was coal, nine percent was natural gas, and 18 percent was hydro-electric. While power generation has been open to private investment since 1991, 70 percent of electricity supply remains government owned: 40 percent is owned by state governments, and 30 percent is owned by central government entities. Although some retail distribution companies have been privatized, most of distribution is managed by state-run companies, which are often called State Electricity Boards (SEBs).

The proximate reason for shortages is that distribution companies cannot raise retail prices during peak demand times in order to clear the market. In fact, conditional on state and year effects, there is no correlation between shortages and the median electricity price paid by ASI plants. Aside from being stark evidence on how prices do not adjust to supply and demand conditions, this also means that the effects we estimate are caused by input shortages, not by input price changes.

There are several underlying systemic reasons for shortages. The first is the “infrastructure

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<sup>4</sup>Although it is likely that shortages are measured with error, correlations with independent data suggest that the CEA’s estimates contain meaningful information. Alam (2013) shows that Peak Shortage is correlated with her measure of blackouts based on variation in nighttime lights measured by satellites; she does not report a correlation with Shortage. In the World Bank Enterprise Survey, plants in higher-Shortage states report a larger share of self-generated electricity and are more likely to report that electricity is their primary obstacle to growth. Furthermore, our empirical results show that Shortages are positively correlated with hydroelectric supply and correlated in theoretically-predicted ways with self-generation and other outcomes in the ASI.



quality and subsidy trap” (McRae 2013): distribution companies provide low-quality electricity to consumers, who tolerate poor service because they pay very low prices, distribution companies’ losses from low prices are covered by government subsidies, and politicians support the subsidies to avoid voter backlash. At least since the 1970s, State Electricity Boards have offered un-metered electricity at a monthly fixed fee and zero marginal cost to agricultural consumers, largely to run well pumps (Bhargava and Subramaniam 2009). In 2010, the national average retail electricity cost paid by agricultural consumers was 1.23 Rupees per kilowatt-hour (Rs/kWh), against Rs 4.78 for industrial consumers and 3.57 Rs/kWh for all consumers. (The exchange rate is about 50 Rupees per dollar, and the average electricity price across all consumers in the United States is about 10 cents/kWh.)

Distortions in pricing are relevant only for consumers who actually pay for electricity. Twenty-six percent of electricity generated in India in 2010-2011 was lost due to “technical and commercial losses,” meaning theft or poor transmission infrastructure. This is down from 34 percent in 2004-2005. Distribution companies thus have no ability to charge any price, let alone raise prices, on a significant share of electricity.

Agricultural subsidies and technical and commercial losses have led to mounting losses. The SEBs receive large annual payments from state governments to cover these losses, and in particular to fund the subsidies for agricultural consumers, but these payments and the cross-subsidy from industrial customers are not sufficient to cover the SEBs’ costs. Between 1992 and 2009, the SEBs lost \$54 billion dollars (again, in real 2004 dollars). These mounting losses caused the SEBs to reduce infrastructure investment, and degraded infrastructure further increases the probability of blackouts. The SEBs are bailed out at irregular intervals by the government.

A second systemic reason for shortages is underinvestment in new generation capacity. For example, after the 1991 liberalization, 200 Memoranda of Understanding were signed between the government and investors to build 50 gigawatts of generation capacity, but less than four gigawatts of this was actually built (Bhargava and Subramaniam 2009). Of the 71 gigawatts of capacity targeted to be built between 1997 and 2007, only half was actually achieved (CEA 2013a). Potential power plant investors faced concerns over both output demand and input supply. Their main customers, the State Electricity Boards, faced serious financial problems, and it was not clear that they would be able to honor contracts. Meanwhile, the main supplier of coal is Coal India, a government-owned monopoly that is struggling to keep pace with demand growth.

In addition, the existing capacity is systematically underutilized. Between 1994 and 2009, Indian coal power plants were offline about 28 percent of the time due to forced outages, planned maintenance, or other factors such as equipment malfunction, coal shortages, or poor coal quality. Furthermore, when capacity is utilized, it is substantially less efficient than comparable plants in the United States (Chan, Cropper, and Malik 2014).

One potential solution to problems with retail distribution companies is “open access”: allowing consumers to contract directly with generators. The 2003 Electricity Act mandated open access,

but in practice direct power sales to bulk consumers have not materialized (GOI 2009, 2012), partially because states have imposed additional charges on open access consumers and have also banned export of power to open access consumers in other states.

## 2.3 Variation in Shortages

These systemic factors differ across states, generating differences in shortages. A substantial part of these differences persist across years. Figure 1 shows that there is a negative association between 2010 per capita GDP and average shortage over the sample. This suggests that low levels of development are associated with poor institutions, bad management, and other factors that worsen provision of public infrastructure. However, there is substantial variation conditional on GDP. Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Sikkim have low GDP and low shortages, partially because their slow GDP growth makes it easier for supply to keep up with demand. Because end-of-sample GDP is highly correlated with GDP growth, this implies that shortages could be correlated with factors that also affect manufacturing growth and productivity. This highlights the importance of instrumenting for shortages in our empirical analysis.<sup>5</sup>

There is also substantial variation in shortages within states over time. Figure 2 shows the time path of annual average shortage over our sample for five large states in different parts of the country. West Bengal has had consistently low shortages for the past 20 years. Maharashtra, which is now one of the highest-shortage states, had only small shortages in the early 1990s. Karnataka, which faced almost zero shortage in the mid-2000s, had significant shortages in the early to mid 1990s. Gujarat has reliable power supply now, but in the mid-2000s was experiencing shortages.

Several factors drive year-to-year fluctuations in shortages. On the demand side, fast or slow economic growth over a few years can increase or decrease shortages. In addition, low rainfall in a given year can increase farmers' utilization of groundwater pumps, which can markedly increase electricity demand. An unusually hot summer can also increase electricity demand to cool buildings. On the supply side, the electricity market is still small enough that individual plants can affect the aggregate supply-demand balance. Power plant outages for maintenance or due to fuel shortages can cause electricity shortages, and new plants coming online can temporarily reduce shortages. Later in the paper, we will discuss one other factor: variation in hydroelectric production, due to varying rainfall in the south and varying snowpack in the north.

About 7.5 percent of electricity consumed in 2011-2012 was generated in another state. Because distribution companies are able to procure power from other states, supply-demand imbalances do not vary as much as they would under autarky.

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<sup>5</sup>Appendix Figure A1 is a map of average shortages by state over the sample period, with higher-shortages states colored darker.

## 2.4 Industrial Electricity Use in India

A natural response to outages is to self-generate electricity. Manufacturers in India generate 35 percent of manufacturing electricity consumption, more than twice the 15.8 percent for U.S. manufacturers reported in the Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS) (U.S. DOE 2013). Figure 3 compares manufacturing electricity generation in India to the United States. Each dot reflects a three-digit industry code from India’s National Industrial Classification (NIC), comparing Indian data from the Annual Survey of Industries to U.S. data from the MECS.<sup>6</sup>

The figure highlights two important facts. First, there is a strong correlation between the US and Indian data, suggesting that the ASI self-generation data are meaningful. Many industries in the United States - where power outages are relatively unimportant - produce a large share of their power. For instance, in the sugar refining industry, byproducts from sugarcane processing can be burned to generate electricity, so there is a natural complementarity between manufacturing operations and electricity generation. Second, the mass of points along the y-axis implies that many industries in India produce much more than their counterparts in the U.S. For instance, plastics manufacturers in the United States produce none of their power (U.S. DOE 2013), while in India, the plastics industry produces 70 percent of its electricity consumption.

## 2.5 Self-Generation and Plant Size

The reason why electricity is typically generated in large power plants instead of by individual manufacturing plants is that there are strong economies of scale in generation. Even within the range of manufacturing plant sizes, generator costs rise meaningfully per kilowatt of capacity. The result is that larger plants are much more likely to self-generate power, as shown in Figure 4. This economy of scale has important implications for how electricity shortages might affect the plant size distribution, an issue which we return to later in the paper.

Table 2 compares the 2005 World Bank Enterprise Survey (WBES) responses for “small” plants (<100 workers) and “large” plants. In the WBES, 46 percent of small plants and 83 percent of large plants have generators. This is closely consistent with the ASI data in Figure 4, in which 42 percent of small plants and 77 percent of large plants ever self-generate. The WBES data also show that although smaller plants may be more affected, large plants also report significant losses from shortages. While small plants report that they lose eight percent of revenues to electricity input disruptions, large plants report losing five percent. Furthermore, 26 percent of large plants report the electricity is the biggest obstacle to growth.

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<sup>6</sup>This ratio of generation to consumption differs slightly from Self-Generation Share because electricity generated also includes electricity sales by manufacturing plants to others. Several industries don’t match well between the two datasets: chemicals and refining are not broken out into many different sub-industries in the public US data, so Indian sub-industries such as Explosives, Chemicals Not Elsewhere Classified (NEC), Matches, and Perfumes and Cosmetics are matched to “Chemicals,” a broader industry where other establishments are more likely to have feedstock for self-generation, and thus a higher self-generation share. Similarly, Natural Gas and LPG Bottling, Coal NEC, and Coke Oven Products are matched to “Petroleum and Coal Products,” another very broad category.

## 3 Model

### 3.1 Setup

In this section, we develop a model of how electricity shortages affect manufacturers.  $\tau$  indexes points in time, which we refer to as “days.” Every day, a producer uses capital  $K$ , labor  $L$ , electricity  $E$ , and materials  $M$  to produce output  $Q$ .  $Q_{it\tau}$  denotes the output for plant  $i$  in year  $t$  on day  $\tau$ , and  $Q_{it} \equiv \int_{\tau} Q_{it\tau} d\tau$  is the annual aggregate. We do not model the possibility for inter-day substitution of production; this is covered nicely by Alam (2013) and Zuberi (2012). To the extent that firms can adjust in this way, this reduces the losses from shortages relative to what we simulate in Section 7.

The daily production function is Leontief in electricity and a Cobb-Douglas aggregate of capital, labor, and materials, with physical productivity  $A$ :

$$Q = \min\{AK^{\alpha_K}L^{\alpha_L}M^{\alpha_M}, \frac{1}{\lambda}E\} \quad (1)$$

The Leontief production function dictates that electricity is used in constant proportion  $\frac{1}{\lambda}$  with output. Electricity intensity  $\lambda$  varies across industries. As is common, we assume that the Cobb-Douglas aggregate,  $AK^{\alpha_K}L^{\alpha_L}M^{\alpha_M}$ , has constant returns to scale, so  $\alpha_K + \alpha_L + \alpha_M = 1$ . Having  $A$  inside the Cobb-Douglas aggregator ensures that electricity is used in fixed proportion to output instead of to the bundle of other inputs.<sup>7</sup>

Since we will observe total revenues rather than physical quantities produced, we need to relate revenues to our production function in equation (1). As in Foster, Haltiwanger, Syverson (2008), Bloom (2009), and Asker, Collard-Wexler, and De Loecker (2013), we consider a firm facing a constant elasticity demand curve (CES) given by  $Q_{it} = B_{it}p_{it}^{-\epsilon}$ , where  $p$  is the output price. Combining the production function and the demand curve, we obtain an expression for the revenue-generating production function  $R_{it} = \min\{\Omega_{it}K_{it}^{\beta_K}L_{it}^{\beta_L}M_{it}^{\beta_M}, B_{it}^{\frac{1}{\epsilon}}\frac{1}{\lambda}E_{it}\}$  where  $\Omega_{it} \equiv A_{it}B_{it}^{\frac{1}{\epsilon}}$ , and  $\beta_X \equiv \alpha_X(1 - \frac{1}{\epsilon})$ , for  $X \in \{K, L, M\}$ . Following Foster, Haltiwanger, and Syverson (2008), we refer to  $\Omega$  as “revenue productivity,” or “TFPR.” We will use an elasticity of demand of  $\epsilon = -10$ , but we will also verify our results with other elasticities such as  $\epsilon = -4$ , the value used by Bloom (2009), and Asker, Collard-Wexler, and De Loecker (2013).

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<sup>7</sup>We have also considered a production function which is Cobb-Douglas in  $K$ ,  $L$ ,  $M$ , and also  $E$ . There are two main differences in this model’s predictions. First, plants that own generators will always self-generate at least a small amount of electricity no matter how high the cost, because an input’s marginal revenue product approaches infinity as quantity input limits to zero. By contrast, plants such as the textile factories in Section 4 sometimes choose to shut down completely during outages even if they have generators. Second, higher costs of self-generated electricity act like an input tax on electricity, while they act like an output tax in the Leontief-in-electricity model.

Quantitatively, the effects of blackouts are the same in the two models for plants that do not have generators. For plants that have and use generators, the Cobb-Douglas model would find a smaller effect of shortages on output and productivity than our Leontief-in-electricity model, since there is scope for substituting electricity with other inputs.

### 3.2 Decision Variables

We assume that inputs fall into three categories: fixed, semi-flexible at the yearly level, and fully flexible at the daily level.

1. *Fixed Inputs* are chosen before the current year and are exogenous in this analysis. We assume that capital stock  $K$  is fixed.
2. *Semi-Flexible Inputs* can be modified at the beginning of a year  $t$ , but they cannot be modified from day to day. For the model and simulations, we treat labor as semi-flexible, since firms cannot hire and fire workers from one moment to the next as blackouts occur. This gives  $L_{it\tau} = L_{it}$ . An alternative interpretation is that these are non-storable inputs, which cannot be stockpiled and used another day.<sup>8</sup>
3. *Fully Flexible Inputs* can be modified for each day  $\tau$ . We treat materials and electricity as fully flexible.

### 3.3 Power Outages

Power outages occur on each day with probability  $\delta$ , and firms observe whether there is a power outage before setting their fully flexible inputs. If there is not an outage, firms can purchase electricity from the grid at price  $p^{E,G}$ . If there is an outage, firms with generators can self-produce electricity at price  $p^{E,S} > p^{E,G}$ . Firms without generators will have zero electricity use during an outage, and thus zero output.

### 3.4 The Firm's Problem

Firms have the following daily profit function  $\Pi_{it\tau}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_{it\tau} = & p \min \left\{ A_{it}^{1-\frac{1}{\epsilon}} K_{it}^{\alpha_K} L_{it}^{\alpha_L} M_{it\tau}^{\alpha_M}, \frac{1}{\lambda} E_{it\tau} \right\} \\ & - p^L L_{it} - p^M M_{it\tau} - p^E E_{it\tau}, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where  $p$ ,  $p^L$ ,  $p^M$  are the prices of output, labor, and materials, respectively. Note that capital is excluded, since it is fixed, and thus a sunk cost in the yearly decision problem.

Given the Leontief-in-electricity structure of production, cost minimization implies that for any desired level of output  $Q$ , the firm produces at a “corner” of the isoquant where:

$$A_{it}^{1-\frac{1}{\epsilon}} K_{it}^{\alpha_K} L_{it}^{\alpha_L} M_{it\tau}^{\alpha_M} = \frac{1}{\lambda} E_{it\tau}, \quad (3)$$

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<sup>8</sup>Some of the high self-generation in Indian industries, such as in plastics, is presumably due to inputs being spoiled during a power outage. In these industries, it might be more plausible to assume that materials are also semi-flexible inputs.

Given this, one can rewrite the profit function, substituting in for the optimized value of electricity:

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi_{it\tau} &= \left(1 - \frac{\lambda p^E}{p}\right) p A_{it}^{1-\frac{1}{\epsilon}} K_{it}^{\alpha_K} L_{it}^{\alpha_L} M_{it\tau}^{\alpha_M} - p^L L_{it} - p^M M_{it\tau} \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{\lambda p^E}{p}\right) \Omega_{it} K_{it}^{\beta_K} L_{it}^{\beta_L} M_{it\tau}^{\beta_M} - p^L L_{it} - p^M M_{it\tau}.\end{aligned}\tag{4}$$

Let  $\gamma \equiv \frac{\lambda p^E}{p} = \frac{p^E E}{p Q}$ , the electricity revenue share. Notice that if  $(1 - \gamma) < 0$ , then the firm will choose not to produce.

There are three outcomes that can occur, depending on electricity intensity and the relative price of electricity:

1. If  $p > \lambda p^{E,S}$ , the firm always produces, regardless of power outages.
2. If  $\lambda p^{E,S} > p > \lambda p^{E,G}$ , the firm does not produce during power outages, but does produce otherwise.
3. If  $p < \lambda p^{E,G}$ , the firm never produces.

We ignore case (3): if firms never produce, they never appear in the data. Firms without generators effectively have  $p^{E,S} = \infty$ , so case (1) cannot arise. Of the firms with generators, those with higher  $\lambda$  will be in case (2). In other words, higher-electricity intensity firms will be more likely to shut down during grid power outages.<sup>9</sup>

The first-order condition with respect to materials yields:

$$\beta_M (1 - \gamma) \frac{R_{it\tau}}{M_{it\tau}} - p^M = 0.\tag{5}$$

This is the usual Cobb-Douglas first-order condition for materials, except that the marginal revenue product of materials is reduced by  $\gamma$ . Since  $\lambda$  is constant,  $\gamma$  is higher when a firm self-generates and pays a price for power of  $p^{E,S}$ , rather than purchasing from the grid and paying  $p^{E,G}$ . One can thus interpret  $\mathcal{T} \equiv \frac{1 - \lambda \frac{p^{E,S}}{p}}{1 - \lambda \frac{p^{E,G}}{p}}$  as an implicit tax on output due to self-generation, and this tax is higher for industries which are more electricity intensive.

The marginal revenue product of materials is:

$$MRPM = \begin{cases} \beta_M (1 - \gamma) \frac{R_{it\tau}}{M_{it\tau}} & \text{if no power outage} \\ \mathcal{T} \beta_M (1 - \gamma) \frac{R_{it\tau}}{M_{it\tau}} & \text{if power outage} \end{cases}\tag{6}$$

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<sup>9</sup>While a firm would not invest in a generator if it expected to be in case (2), unexpected changes in  $p$ ,  $p^{E,S}$ , or  $p^{E,G}$  could cause firms with generators to not use them.

The first-order condition for labor is more complicated, since a firm must integrate over outage and non-outage days when setting semi-flexible inputs. If a plant is in case (1), meaning that it self-generates during power outages, then the first-order condition is given by:

$$MRPL_1 = \beta_L(1 - \lambda \frac{p^{E,G}}{p}) \left[ (1 - \delta) \frac{R_{itG}}{L_{it}} + \delta \mathcal{T} \frac{R_{itS}}{L_{it}} \right] = p^L, \quad (7)$$

where  $R_{itS}$  indicates revenue during a shortage period. This expression also includes an “output tax”  $\mathcal{T}$  during shortage periods. We call the reduction in the marginal revenue products of materials and labor for self-generating plants the *output tax effect*.

For firms in case (2), i.e. firms without generators or firms that will not produce during outages since  $\lambda p^{E,S} < p$ , the marginal revenue product of labor is:

$$MRPL_2 = (1 - \delta)(1 - \gamma)\beta_L \frac{R_{itG}}{L_{it}} = p^L, \quad (8)$$

where  $R_{itG}$  indicates revenue during a non-shortage period.

This is the usual Cobb-Douglas first-order condition, except that the marginal revenue product is reduced by  $(1 - \gamma)$  and  $(1 - \delta)$ , the fraction of the time the plant will be down due to power shortages. We call this reduction in marginal product of labor for non-generators the *shutdown tax effect*.

### 3.5 Productivity

#### 3.5.1 Production Function Estimation

We use the first-order condition approach to production function estimation<sup>10</sup> to recover production function coefficients  $\beta_L$ ,  $\beta_M$ ,  $\beta_K$  and  $\gamma$  using yearly data from the Annual Survey of Industries. In our context, however, the first-order conditions depend on variables that vary between outage and non-outage periods and are thus unobserved in the yearly data. Below, however, we see that for plants that do not self-generate, the first-order conditions simplify to functions only of yearly aggregates.

For non-self-generators,  $\gamma$  equals the revenue share of electricity over the year:

$$\gamma = \frac{p^{E,G} E_{it\tau}}{R_{it\tau}} = \frac{p^{E,G} E_{it}}{R_{it}} \quad (9)$$

The latter equality holds because  $(1 - \delta)E_{it\tau} = E_{it}$  and  $(1 - \delta)R_{it\tau} = R_{it}$ : non-self-generators use zero electricity and earn zero revenues during outages.

Similarly, the first-order condition for labor gives:

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<sup>10</sup>For additional discussion, see De Loecker and Warzynski (2012) and Haltiwanger, Bartelsman and Scarpetta (2013).

$$\beta_L = \frac{p^L L_{it}}{(1-\delta)R_{it\tau}} \frac{1}{1-\gamma} = \frac{p^L L_{it}}{R_{it}} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{p^{E,G} E_{it}}{R_{it}}}. \quad (10)$$

We thus have the usual Cobb-Douglas equality of  $\beta_L$  with the revenue share of labor, except adjusted by the inverse of one minus the electricity revenue share.<sup>11</sup>

Likewise, the first-order condition for materials yields:

$$\beta_M = \frac{p^M M_{it\tau}}{R_{it\tau}} \frac{1}{1-\gamma} = \frac{p^M M_{it}}{R_{it}} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{p^{E,G} E_{it}}{R_{it}}}. \quad (11)$$

Again, the latter equality holds because  $M_{it\tau} = (1-\delta)M_{it}$ ,  $(1-\delta)E_{it\tau} = E_{it}$ , and  $R_{it\tau} = (1-\delta)R_{it}$  for non-self-generators.

Finally, using the constant returns to scale assumption that  $\alpha_K + \alpha_L + \alpha_M = 1$ , the capital coefficient is given by  $\beta_K = (1 - \frac{1}{\epsilon}) - \hat{\beta}_L - \hat{\beta}_M$ . We use median regression to estimate these coefficients by three-digit industry, using only plants in the ASI that never self-generate. See Appendix A for additional details.

### 3.5.2 Productivity Effect of Shortages

With no power shortages, revenue productivity is:

$$\omega_{it} = r_{it} - \beta_K k_{it} - \beta_M m_{it} - \beta_L l_{it} \quad (12)$$

where lower case variables denote the logarithms of variables in upper case; i.e.,  $x_{it} = \log(X_{it})$ .

For plants that do not have a generator or have one but choose not to self-generate, revenue is:

$$\begin{aligned} R_{it} &= \int_{\tau} \Omega_{it} K_{it}^{\beta_K} L_{it}^{\beta_L} M_{it\tau}^{\beta_M} d\tau \\ &= (1-\delta)^{1-\frac{1}{\epsilon}-\beta_M} \Omega_{it} K_{it}^{\beta_K} L_{it}^{\beta_L} M_{it}^{\beta_M} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Taking logs, this yields:

$$r_{it} = \beta_K k_{it} + \beta_M m_{it} + \beta_L l_{it} + \underbrace{\omega_{it} + (\beta_K + \beta_L) \log(1-\delta)}_{\hat{\omega}_{it}} \quad (14)$$

and since  $1-\delta \leq 1$ ,  $\log(1-\delta) < 0$ , so shortages reduce measured revenue productivity  $\hat{\omega}_{it}$  relative to  $\omega_{it}$ .

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<sup>11</sup>In a production function that is Cobb-Douglas in electricity, a similar equation would hold with the absence of the  $\frac{1}{1-\gamma}$  adjustment.



If plants have generators and use them during outages, then revenue is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} R_{it} &= \int_{\tau} \Omega_{it} K_{it}^{\beta_K} L_{it}^{\beta_L} M_{it\tau}^{\beta_M} d\tau \\ &= \Omega_{it} K_{it}^{\beta_K} L_{it}^{\beta_L} \left( (1 - \delta) M_{itG}^{\beta_M} + \delta M_{itS}^{\beta_M} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

where  $M_{itS}$  is the bundle of materials chosen during shortages, and  $M_{itG}$  is the bundle of materials chosen otherwise.

Define  $C$  as the loss in output from using different bundles of materials in shortage and non-shortage periods, relative to using the same bundle in both periods:

$$C_{it} = \frac{(1 - \delta) M_{itG}^{\beta_M} + \delta M_{itS}^{\beta_M}}{((1 - \delta) M_{itG} + \delta M_{itS})^{\beta_M}}. \quad (16)$$

By Jensen's inequality,  $C < 1$ , since  $((1 - \delta) M_{itG}^{\beta_M} + \delta M_{itS}^{\beta_M}) < ((1 - \delta) M_{itG} + \delta M_{itS})^{\beta_M}$ .  $C_{it}$  is increasing in  $\beta_M$ , as  $\beta_M < 1$  and  $C$  would be one for a  $\beta_M = 1$  and  $\epsilon = -\infty$ , the linear production case. For small  $\delta$ ,  $C_{it}$  is decreasing in  $\delta$ .

This gives after combining terms and taking logs:

$$r_{it} = \beta_K k_{it} + \beta_M m_{it} + \beta_L l_{it} + \underbrace{\omega_{it} + c_{it}}_{\hat{\omega}_{it}}. \quad (17)$$

Since  $C_{it} < 1$ ,  $c_{it} < 0$ , so outages again decrease measured revenue productivity  $\hat{\omega}_{it}$ .

Collecting our results, we have the effects of shortages on measured TFPR:

$$\hat{\omega}_{it} - \omega_{it} = \begin{cases} (\beta_K + \beta_L) \log(1 - \delta) & \text{If no self-generation} \\ c_{it} & \text{If self-generation} \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

We call the first line the *shutdown effect*. The  $\beta_L + \beta_K$  term represents the share of inputs that are not fully flexible - in this case, capital and labor. Thus, the shutdown effect on TFPR is just the share of the year shut down multiplied by the share of inputs that are wasted during outages. We call the second line the *input variation effect*.

## 4 Case Study: Large Textile Manufacturers

Bloom *et al.* (2013) study how improved management practices increased productivity at textile plants in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. In the industrial areas where these plants operate, there are scheduled "power holidays" on a given day of the week, during which there is typically no grid electricity. As a case study to illustrate and calibrate the model, this section uses data shared by Bloom *et al.* (2013) to estimate how power holidays change inputs and

production.

## 4.1 Overview and Data

Bloom *et al.* (2013) selected an initial random sample of 66 firms from the set of textile firms that had between 100 and 1,000 employees based in two towns near Mumbai. These 66 firms were contacted and offered free consulting services, and 17 agreed to participate in the consulting program. On average, the firms have 270 employees and revenues of \$7.5 million per year. The data include 22 plants owned by the 17 firms.

The electric distribution companies spread power holidays throughout the week in order to reduce load on all days. Fourteen of the plants are in areas with power holidays on Fridays, while the remainder have holidays spread throughout the week. Appendix Table A1 presents information on plant locations and scheduled power holidays, while Appendix Table A2 summarizes the data.

The plants typically operate continuously: 24 hours a day, every day. Before each power holiday, however, plant managers can choose to reduce output or fully shut down for all or part of the day. As they do this in advance, they can inform some or all workers that they need not come to work. Production workers are on 12 hour shifts, and they are paid if and only if they are called in. In the context of our model, labor is thus fully flexible. Similarly, materials such as yarn are fully flexible: they can be stored if the plant does not operate.

Physical output  $Q$  is measured in “picks,” where one pick is a single rotation of the weaving shuttle. Figure 5 presents the distributions of output at an example plant for each of the seven days of the week. The dashed line is output on Fridays, when the plant has power holidays, while the solid lines represent output on each of the other six days. The distributions are very similar for the six non-holidays, with a mode of about 12,000 picks per day. On most power holidays, output does not appear to differ. On some power holidays, however, output is roughly half, as the plant cancels one 12-hour shift. Output drops to zero on a small share of power holidays.

## 4.2 Empirical Estimates

### 4.2.1 Differences in Output on Power Holidays

We now estimate the reduction in output on power holidays. We observe physical output  $Q_{i\tau}$  for each plant  $i$  on each day  $\tau$ .  $\tilde{Q}_{i\tau}$  is output normalized by plant  $i$ ’s sample average production:  $\tilde{Q}_{i\tau} = Q_{i\tau}/\bar{Q}_i$ .<sup>12</sup>  $\phi_i$  is a vector of 22 plant indicators, while  $\theta_\tau$  represents 1339 day-of-sample indicators. The estimating equation is:

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<sup>12</sup>We normalize because production varies substantially within and between the different plants, and we do not want the coefficient estimates to be driven by outliers. This normalization is preferable to using  $\ln(Q_{i\tau})$  or  $\ln(Q_{i\tau} + 1)$  as the dependent variable because  $Q_{i\tau} = 0$  on some days, and this large variation makes it incorrect to interpret the coefficients as approximately reflecting percent changes in  $Q$ .

$$\tilde{Q}_{i\tau} = \rho \cdot 1(\text{Power Holiday}_{i\tau}) + \phi_i + \theta_\tau + \varepsilon_{i\tau} \quad (19)$$

Table 3 presents the results of this regression, with standard errors clustered by plant. Column 1 presents the above specification, except without the day-of-sample controls  $\theta_\tau$ . Column 2 is the exact specification above. These columns show that average production is 7.4 to 9.7 percent lower on power holidays.

Grid power is not necessarily off for all 24 hours of the scheduled power holiday: outages are typically shorter during the winter months when market-level electricity demand is lower. During all months, especially the summer months when electricity demand is higher, there can also be unscheduled power cuts on any day. Column 3 measures this by estimating how production on power holidays and non-holidays varies with the monthly CEA shortage estimate for the state in which each plant is located. On non-power holidays, output is not statistically significantly associated with shortages. This is consistent with the fact that when power cuts occur on non-power holidays, plants typically self-generate instead of shutting down, as labor input for the day has already been fixed. In Column 3, the coefficient on  $1(\text{Power Holiday})$  represents the intercept in months when the CEA estimates zero shortages; this is statistically zero. Output on power holidays decreases by 0.6 percentage points as shortages increase by 1 percentage point.

Column 4 includes power holiday-by-month controls, to control for any time-varying factors such as demand or diesel prices. This does not change the results relative to Column 3. These results suggest that the managers have some ability to predict when there will be more electricity on a scheduled power holiday, and when they expect more electricity they call in more workers and produce more. This highlights that the effects of scheduled power holidays on production depends on the severity of the underlying shortage that the holidays are designed to address.<sup>13</sup>

#### 4.2.2 Input Cost Effect

We now estimate the input cost effect: the increase in electricity costs when power holidays force a switch from grid electricity to self-generated electricity. We observe total energy costs - electricity plus generator fuel - at the monthly level, not for each day. After conditioning on total monthly production, the relationship between energy costs and the share of production on power holidays tells us the incremental marginal cost of self-generated electricity.

Let  $G_{im}$  represent the share of output produced on power holidays at plant  $i$  during month  $m$ . We denote  $\tilde{F}_{im}$  and  $\tilde{Q}_{im}$  as plant  $i$ 's energy costs and output for month  $m$ , normalized by the plant's average monthly values. Analogous to above,  $\phi_i$  is a plant fixed effect, and  $\theta_m$  is a full set of month-of-sample dummies.  $\delta_{im}$  denotes the CEA's estimated shortage in plant  $i$ 's state in month  $m$ . The regression is:

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<sup>13</sup>Our model does not capture potential effects of electricity shortages on output quality, and so we would understate productivity losses if shortages affect output quality along with quantity. However, we have tested this using two measures of output quality, finding no statistical difference on power holidays vs. non-holidays.

$$\tilde{F}_{im} = \eta_1 G_{im} + \eta_2 \tilde{Q}_{im} + \eta_3 \delta_{im} + \phi_i + \theta_m + \varepsilon_{im} \quad (20)$$

Table 4 presents the results, again with standard errors clustered by plant. Column 1 shows the unconditional correlation between energy costs and power holiday output share, while Columns 2-4 progressively add controls for month-of-sample, normalized output, and shortages. The estimates imply that shifting 100 percent of production from non-power holidays to power holidays would increase monthly energy costs by 61 to 81 percent. This is closely consistent with the World Bank Enterprise Survey data in Table 2, which suggest that grid electricity costs an average of Rs 4.5 per kilowatt-hour, while generator electricity costs Rs 7 per kilowatt-hour, or 56 percent more.

### 4.3 Estimating Losses from Power Holidays

Table 5 uses the empirical estimates to calculate the input cost effect, output loss, and TFPR reduction from power holidays at this set of plants. The top panel calculates the input cost effect. This is the proportion of electricity that is self-generated, which we assume to be equal to the share of production on power holidays ( $G$ ), multiplied by the proportional increase in energy costs when self-generating ( $\hat{\eta}_1$ ) and by the sample median<sup>14</sup> energy revenue share. Power holidays increase input costs by 0.32 percent of revenues. This effect is small, both because the energy input revenue share is small and because only one-ninth of production is on power holidays.

Estimating output losses requires the additional assumption from Section 3 that production is not substitutable across days. During peak textile production seasons and when plants have impending delivery requirements, plants run at full capacity, and there is no opportunity for intertemporal substitution. By contrast, if plants can substitute production across days during periods when they are operating at less than full capacity, they should produce when lower-cost grid electricity is available. In this case, the reductions in output associated with power holidays would not reflect a reduction in total output caused by power holidays - instead, they would represent inter-day shifting of the same amount of production. If plants do substitute production across days, estimated output losses assuming static production thus overstate the true output losses. In additional regressions, however, we see little evidence that intertemporal substitution causes the static model to overstate output losses.<sup>15</sup>

Under the static production assumption, the middle panel estimates that power holidays reduce output by 1.1 percent. This is the product of 1/7 days that are power holidays and an estimated 7.4 percent output reduction on those days. While this is meaningful, it is small relative to average

<sup>14</sup>We use median instead of mean to avoid bias due to potential reporting error for revenues.

<sup>15</sup>More specifically, we test for inter-day substitution in two ways. First, we find that days of week just before power holidays do not have higher output, and the day immediately after a power holiday actually tends to have slightly *lower* output, which suggests delays in restarting plants. Second, we exploit the fact that it is more difficult to substitute production away from power holidays when already producing closer to capacity. Interday substitution would thus cause more output reduction during periods when plants are producing less. By contrast, we find that output reductions are larger when plants are producing *more*.

output losses estimated later for all Indian plants, because this sample of textile plants all own generators and thus often do not shut down during outages. To the extent that there is any undetected inter-day substitution, this only strengthens the qualitative conclusion that the output losses are small for these plants.

The bottom panel presents measured TFPR losses under the assumption that at a given time on a power holiday, a plant has either shut down completely or is operating at the typical production rate for a non-power holiday. Under this assumption, there is no input variation effect, and measured TFPR losses accrue through the shutdown effect. Under constant returns to scale and using the assumption that labor and materials are fully flexible, Equation (18) for the measured TFPR losses from the shutdown effect can be modified to obtain the measured TFPR loss from power holidays:

$$\hat{\omega}_{it} - \omega_{it} = (\beta_K) \log(1 - \tilde{\delta}) \quad (21)$$

In this equation,  $\tilde{\delta}$  is the percent of time shut down, which under our assumptions equals the 1.1 percent output loss. We take  $\beta_K$  from the ASI for textile plants (NIC 1987 code 230), which is slightly less than five percent. (Variable profits are relatively low in this industry.) The table shows that power holidays reduce measured TFPR by 0.05 percent. Intuitively, this effect is so small because the plants rarely shut down, and when they do they have the flexibility to reduce the vast majority of their inputs.

While these plants provide a clear case study of the model, the effects of blackouts might be smaller here compared to the average plant in India, because labor and materials are both storable during planned power holidays, these plants all can self-generate instead of needing to always shut down, and textile plants are only moderately electricity intensive. To learn more about the broader Indian manufacturing sector, we now turn to data from the Annual Survey of Industries.

## 5 Annual Survey of Industries: Data and Empirical Strategy

### 5.1 Data

We use India's Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) from 1992-93 through 2010-11. The survey is split into two schemes: the census scheme and the sample scheme. In each year, the census scheme surveys all manufacturing establishments with over 100 workers, while the sample scheme surveys a rotating sample of one-third of establishments below that size.<sup>16</sup> A recent release of the ASI includes establishment identifiers that are consistent across years back to 1998-99. We also have

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<sup>16</sup>The sampling rules have changed somewhat over time. The census sector, from which 100 percent of factories are sampled, was factories with 50 or more workers (100 or more if without electric power) until 1986-1987, 100 or more workers between that year and 1996-1997, 200 or more workers from then until 2003-2004, and then 100 or more workers since then. One-fifth of smaller factories were sampled since 2004-2005. The selection was done as a rotating panel such that plants are surveyed approximately once every third (or fifth) year, subject to constraints that sufficient numbers of factories had to be sampled to assure representativeness at the state and industry level (MOSPI 2009).

a version of the ASI data that contains consistent establishment identifiers for years before 1998. Combining these two datasets gives us an establishment-level panel for our entire sample period.

The ASI is comparable to manufacturing surveys in the United States and other countries. It contains several modules, covering value of fixed capital stock and inventories, loans and cash flow information, cost and quantities of labor, materials, fuels, and other inputs, value of output, and other occasional questions. The reporting period is the Indian fiscal year, which is April 1 through March 31; when we refer to an individual survey year, we refer to the calendar year when the fiscal year begins. All financial amounts are deflated to constant 2004 Rupees. Appendix A gives more detail on the ASI data preparation and cleaning.

Table 6 gives descriptive statistics for the full ASI dataset.<sup>17</sup> There are 616,129 plant-by-year observations. The median plant employs 34 people and has gross revenues of 20 million Rupees, or slightly less than \$500,000. One of the benefits of the ASI over other manufacturing datasets from India and other countries is that we observe the physical quantity of each plant’s total electricity purchases and self-generation in each year. The sum of these two variables, minus reported sales of electricity, yields Electricity Consumed. Self-Generation Share equals Electricity Self-Generated divided by Electricity Consumed. Energy Revenue Share is the value of electricity and fuels purchased divided by revenues.

The mean plant uses 0.013 kWh per Rupee of revenues, which equals 5.7 percent of revenues at typical electricity prices of 4.5 Rupees/kWh. 1(Self-Generator) is an indicator variable for whether a plant self-generates electricity in at least one year; this is the variable graphed non-parametrically in Figure 4. We combine the ASI with the state-by-year electricity market and weather data summarized in Table 1.

## 5.2 Estimation Strategy

Define  $Y_{ijst}$  as an outcome at plant  $i$  in industry  $j$  in state  $s$  in year  $t$ . Our primary specifications focus on four outcomes: self-generation share, energy revenue share, revenues, and revenue productivity. We use a difference estimator for our primary specifications, although we present robustness checks using the fixed effects estimator. The difference estimator is conceptually preferable because it identifies coefficients using shorter-term variation, consistent with our focus on identifying the short-run effects of shortages.

Because of non-response and the ASI’s irregular sampling procedure, the data form an unbalanced panel with plants observed at irregular intervals. Sixty percent of intervals are one-year, while 91 percent are five years or less. Let  $\Delta_i$  denote the difference operator, and define  $\delta_{st}$  as electricity shortage in state  $s$  in year  $t$ , ranging from zero to one. The variable  $\Delta_i \delta_{st}$  is the differ-

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<sup>17</sup>The table excludes “within-plant outliers.” As discussed in Appendix A, these are observations of logged inputs or outputs that are flagged because they differ from both preceding and subsequent observations by more than 3.5. A one-time annual jump of 3.5 natural logs is almost certainly a reporting error, although robustness checks in Appendix B.3 show that the estimates are not sensitive to either tightening or eliminating this restriction.

ence between the shortage in year  $t$  and the shortage in the year of plant  $i$ 's previous observation. We include indicators  $\theta_{it}$  for each “year difference,” by which we mean the initial and final year combination for each differenced observation. For example, there is a  $\theta_{it}$  indicator that takes value 1 for all plants observed in 2008 whose preceding observation was in 2005, and another  $\theta_{it}$  indicator for all plants observed in 2008 whose preceding observation was 2004, etc. The variables  $\mu_{jt}$  and  $\psi_s$  are vectors of indicators for two-digit industry-by-year and state, respectively.

The estimating equation is:

$$\Delta_i \ln Y_{ijst} = \rho \Delta_i \delta_{st} + \mu_{jt} + \theta_{it} + \psi_s + \varepsilon_{ijst} \quad (22)$$

To increase power, all observations are weighted equally in the empirical estimates. Notwithstanding, we will show that estimates are identical when using the ASI sampling weights, and the simulations in Section 7 use the ASI sampling weights to construct estimates that are representative of registered plants nationwide. Standard errors are robust and clustered at the level of variation in the year difference  $\Delta_i \delta_{st}$ .<sup>18</sup>

In the model, electricity shortages affect firms only through input availability: demand is unaffected by shortages. This would reflect the case in which manufacturers sell into national or international markets. In reality, many manufacturers sell to customers within the same state whose demand might also be affected by shortages. Thus, our empirical estimates capture effects of shortages through both input availability and within-state demand. If there are geographic spillovers across states, perhaps as downstream consumers substitute away from plants experiencing increased shortages, our estimates measure a reallocation of output across states, not a loss of aggregate output.

These empirical estimates are “reduced form” in the sense that they may capture additional effects not contemplated in the model in Sections 3 and 7. For example, if plants substitute production across days in response to outages, our empirical estimates capture the net effect of outages on output and other variables over the year. The estimates reflect the causal impact of annual variation in blackouts except in the unlikely event that plants substitute production across years. As another example, the empirical estimates let the data tell us whether materials and labor are semi-flexible or fully flexible.

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<sup>18</sup>Sample sizes will differ from the observation counts in Table 6 for precisely three reasons. First, the difference estimator drops the approximately 107,000 plants observed only once. Second, the states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal (now Uttarakhand) were established in 2001 from parts of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, respectively. State-level measures of shortages and hydroelectric generation thus do not represent consistent areas before vs. after the splits, so we drop observations that are differences of years that span this split. Third, when examining self-generation share or energy revenue share as the outcome in our basic specifications, we exclude the 46 percent of plants that never self-generate electricity.

### 5.3 Instruments and First Stages

Shortages could be econometrically endogenous to some outcomes, in particular output and productivity. For example, improvements in economic conditions within a state could increase productivity and output in manufacturing and other sectors, and the resulting increase in electricity demand could cause shortages. Furthermore, shortages could also be measured with error, causing attenuation bias.

To address this, we need an instrument that causes shortages to vary but is otherwise unrelated to manufacturing. We instrument using hydroelectricity generation, which varies from year to year due to the availability of water in reservoirs.  $H_{st}$  is the predicted share of state consumption that can be fulfilled by hydroelectric generation in state  $s$  in year  $t$ . As there are positive shocks to reservoir inflows, and thus to hydroelectricity generation, a larger share of state consumption can be fulfilled, and shortages should decrease. Intuitively, the denominator should be total electricity consumption in state  $s$  in year  $t$ , but this is determined partially by the extent of shortages. Thus, the denominator is national electricity consumption multiplied by the average ratio of state to national consumption for all years of the sample:

$$H_{st} = \frac{\text{Hydro Electricity Production}_{st} \text{ (GWh)}}{\left[ \frac{\text{National Electricity Consumption}_t \text{ (GWh)}}{\text{National Electricity Consumption}_t \text{ (GWh)}} \right] \cdot \left[ \frac{\text{Average Ratio of State to National Consumption}_s}{\text{Average Ratio of State to National Consumption}_s} \right]} \quad (23)$$

Figure 6 illustrates the cross-state variation in the importance of hydroelectricity. While some hydro-heavy states are small mountainous regions such as Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Uttarakhand, other states such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, and Punjab are both large and rely heavily on hydroelectricity. Appendix Figure A2 shows hydroelectricity generation over the study period for these states. In essence, the instrument is the product of the cross-section variation in Figure 6 with the time series variation in Appendix Figure A2.

Karnataka, a large state in southwest India, is the country's largest producer of hydroelectricity. Figure 7 plots the hydro instrument and shortages for Karnataka over the study period. The two variables are highly negatively correlated: more hydro generation reduces shortages.

Column 1 of Table 7 presents an analogue to the first stage using only first-differenced state-level data. Specifically, we regress the change in shortage on the change in the hydro instrument, controlling for state and year fixed effects. A one percentage point increase in hydro production relative to predicted demand decreases shortages by 0.048 percentage points. If a state's own hydro plants were its only source of electricity, this coefficient should be one. In practice, states offset the loss of hydro production by increasing generation from coal and other sources and by importing from other states.

The exclusion restriction is that changes in hydroelectricity production are associated with changes in manufacturing outcomes only through their effects on electricity shortages. In theory, there are at least two reasons why this identifying assumption might be violated. First, there



could be reverse causality: hydroelectricity generation could respond in equilibrium to changes in electricity demand associated with manufacturing outcomes. This is relatively unlikely: the marginal cost of hydroelectricity production is relatively low, and annual production is constrained by the amount of water available behind reservoirs. By contrast, the exclusion restriction would be violated for production technologies such as coal power plants that have higher marginal costs, because their output is determined in equilibrium with demand.

To substantiate this point, we gathered data from the Central Electricity Authority on inflows into 22 large reservoirs. Separately for each state with at least one reservoir, we regressed annual hydroelectricity generation on inflows and construct the fitted values. The  $R^2$  of the regression of actual on predicted hydro generation is 0.86; this is illustrated in Appendix Figure A3. While the  $R^2$  should not be 1 because the data include reservoirs that supply only 40 percent of India’s hydro-electric generating capacity, the very high  $R^2$  indicates that inflows are the primary determinants of hydroelectric production. Note that it is not possible to directly use inflows as our instrument because only 2/5 of states that have positive hydro generation have reservoirs in the inflows data.

The second reason why the identifying assumption might be violated would be if rainfall or some other third variable influences both hydroelectricity generation and manufacturing productivity or input or output prices. To address this, we can simply control for rainfall in our regressions, along with cooling degrees, which are correlated with rainfall and may affect agriculture. Although rainfall is associated with the hydro instrument, Column 2 of Table 7 shows that conditioning on rainfall and cooling degrees has very little impact on the state-level estimates aside from increasing the standard error. By contrast, Column 3 shows that rainfall is associated with agricultural output, while there is a positive but not statistically significant association between the instrument and agricultural output.

Columns 4 and 5 of Table 7 present a placebo test that provides even more direct support for the exclusion restriction. For an instrument to be valid, it needs to affect electricity supply but should not be associated with demand. To test this, we exploit the fact that the CEA reports the two components of shortages: assessed quantity demanded at current prices as well as the actual quantity supplied. Column 4 shows that the instrument is associated with quantity supplied, but column 5 shows that it is not associated with assessed demand. It is difficult to conceive of a story under which the exclusion restriction is violated but the instrument is not associated with electricity demand.

## 6 Empirical Results

### 6.1 First Stages

Table A3 in Appendix B.2 presents first stage estimates using microdata. In theory, the coefficient estimates might differ from the state-level results in Table 7 because the microdata weights

states with more plants more heavily and because the microdata includes one-year and multi-year differences instead of only one-year differences. In practice, the microdata coefficients are slightly larger in absolute value but roughly comparable, ranging from -0.100 to -0.139. The instruments are powerful: the cluster and heteroskedasticity-robust Angrist-Pischke F-statistics range from 39 to 53.<sup>19</sup> For comparison, the Stock and Yogo (2005) critical values for one instrument and one endogenous regressor are 8.96 and 16.38 for maximum 15 and 10 percent bias, respectively.

Appendix Tables A4 and A5 present first stages for the alternative specifications in the upcoming section that potentially have the least power. These two tables respectively consider the sample when self-generation share is the outcome variable, which is the smallest sample, and when log revenue is the outcome variable, which has the smallest F-stat in Appendix Table Table A3. When conditioning on rainfall and cooling degrees, including only one-year differences, or testing interactions with shortages, the smallest F-statistic is 15.52. When clustering by state instead of by state-by-year difference, the F-statistics are 12.52 and 7.51 for self-generation share and log output, respectively. In additional unreported regressions using two-way clustering by state-by-(final year of the year difference) and state-by-(initial year of the year difference) based on the methodology of Cameron, Gelbach, and Miller (2006), these F-statistics are 21.6 and 15.2, respectively.

## 6.2 Regression Results

Table 8 presents results of Equation (22) for four different outcomes: self-generation share, natural log of energy revenue share, natural log of revenues, and natural log of TFPR. Panels A and B present OLS and instrumental variables results, respectively. The IV estimates are very reasonable. Columns 1 and 2 test for impacts on energy input, including in the sample only the 54 percent of plants that ever self-generate. Column 1 shows that a one percentage point increase in shortages, which would increase the shortage variable from (for example) 0.1 to 0.11, causes a 0.57 percentage point increase in the share of self-generated electricity. If shortages affected manufacturers and all other consumers equally and manufacturing electricity demand were fully inelastic, this coefficient should be 1. In reality, state electricity boards may impose more or less of the marginal shortage on manufacturers instead of residential and agricultural consumers, and when manufacturers are faced with shortages, they do not make up for them one-for-one with self-generation. Column 2 shows that a one percentage point increase in shortages causes a 0.64 percentage point increase in energy revenue share.

Either of columns 1 and 2 can be used to derive an estimate of the input cost effect for plants that self-generate. If  $p^{E,S} - p^{E,G} = 2.5$  Rs/kWh (from the World Bank Enterprise Survey) and the mean electric intensity is 0.013 kWh/Rupee (from Table 6), a one percentage point increase in shortages translates to a  $1\% \times 0.57 \times 2.5 \times 0.013 \approx 0.018$  percent unit cost increase. In other words,

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<sup>19</sup>The Angrist-Pischke F-statistics are identical to the Kleibergen-Paap F-statistics when there is one endogenous variable. The Angrist-Pischke F-statistics are more appropriate in the parts of Appendix Tables A4 and A5 that test for weak identification of individual endogenous regressors in regressions with multiple endogenous regressors.

a one percentage point increase in shortages increases self-generation by 0.57 percentage points, which increases average electricity costs by  $0.57\% \times 2.5 \text{ Rs/kWh} \approx 0.0142 \text{ Rs/kWh}$ , which increases total unit costs by  $0.0142 \text{ Rs/kWh} \times 0.013 \text{ kWh/Rs} \approx 0.018$  percent of revenues. Similarly, using the fact that the mean energy revenue share is 0.11, the point estimate in Column 2 suggest that a one percentage point increase in shortages increases energy input costs by  $0.64\% \times 0.11 \approx 0.07$  percent of revenues. While these two estimates differ slightly, both imply that the input cost increase imposed on plants with generators is relatively small.

Columns 3 and 4 include all ASI plants, regardless of whether they self-generate or not. The IV estimates in column 3 show that a one percentage point increase in shortages causes a 0.68 percent decrease in revenues. Hypothetically, if no plants self-generate and there were no shutdown tax effect (in which firms reduce semi-flexible inputs in response to shortages), this coefficient would be one. In reality, self-generation reduces the revenue loss for plants with generators. If firms can foresee and respond to changes in shortages driven by hydro generation, this would be offset by the fact that both self-generators and non-generators reduce semi-flexible inputs through the output tax effect and shutdown tax effect, respectively.

Column 4 shows that shortages have statistically zero effect on TFPR. The 90 percent confidence interval bounds the TFPR losses from a one percentage point increase in shortages at no more than a 0.29 percent decrease in TFPR. In our model, TFPR losses should be much smaller than output losses because the primary cause of TFPR loss is waste of inputs that are not fully flexible, and most inputs are fully flexible - the average input cost share for materials across all plants is 70 percent. Thus, the fact that TFPR losses are too small to detect is fully consistent with our model.

The OLS estimates are statistically and economically different from the IV estimates, and the direction suggest two forms of bias. With self-generation share in Column 1, we expect less omitted variables bias in OLS. The fact that the IV estimates are substantially larger than OLS suggest that the instrument corrects measurement error in the shortage variable. By contrast, with output and TFPR in Columns 3 and 4, we expect potential upward bias in OLS, because economic growth can cause shortages. Indeed, the OLS coefficients are biased upwards from the IV coefficients, and TFPR actually appears to be positively associated with shortages. This shows the importance of using instrumental variables: without the IV, one might erroneously conclude that shortages cause TFPR to *increase*.

### 6.2.1 Robustness Checks and Fixed Effects Estimates

Appendix B.3 shows that the estimates in Table 8 are remarkably robust. None of the estimates differs statistically or loses statistical significance when weighting by the ASI sample weights, omitting the industry-by-year controls  $\mu_{jy}$ , eliminating or tightening the flags for within-plant outliers, controlling for rainfall and cooling degrees, or using the CEA’s estimated Peak Shortage instead of Shortage. When using only one-year differences, this focuses estimates on larger census scheme plants whose output is less affected by shortages and also reduces the sample size. This slightly

reduces the point estimate of effect on output and increases the standard error; the resulting coefficient is statistically indistinguishable from both the base case estimate and from zero. Clustering at the state level instead of state-by-year difference increases the standard errors slightly but does not affect statistical significance. Appendix Table A14 shows that results are qualitatively similar under five different approaches to calculating production functions and TFPR.

Appendix B.4 estimates an analogue to Equation (22) using fixed effects instead of differences, including state-specific linear trends<sup>20</sup> and clustering by state to address potential serial correlation in errors. The results are remarkably similar to Table 8, and none of the IV estimates differ statistically. However, the standard errors are slightly wider, and the first-stage F-statistics are smaller. For these reasons, we focus on results from the difference estimator.

### 6.3 Moderators and Alternative Outcomes

The model in Section 3 generates predictions for how shortages should differentially affect different types of plants. Electricity-intensive industries should be more likely to shut down instead of self-generate during shortages, meaning that revenues and TFPR should drop more. Furthermore, shortages should have much smaller effects on revenues and TFPR for plants that self-generate. Table 9 interacts the change in shortages with indicators for self-generation and whether the plant’s industry is above-median electricity intensity; the regressions also include lower-order interactions with  $\theta_{iy}$  and  $\psi_s$ .

We fail to reject that more electric-intensive plants change self-generation the same amount in response to shortages, although their energy revenue share increases more. Shortages reduce output more for electric intensive plants and reduce output less for self-generators. The point estimates suggest that non-generators’ revenues decrease more than one-for-one with shortages; this is consistent with the model, where non-generators lose output due to the shutdown effect and additionally reduce semi-flexible inputs due to the shutdown tax effect. These standard errors are wider, however, and coefficient magnitudes should be interpreted with caution. Precision would be further reduced if we cut the data more finely or studied individual industries in isolation.

Table 10 tests for effects on other outcomes. The point estimate in column 1 suggests that plants reduce labor input in response to shortages, but the effect is not close to being statistically significant. Column 2 shows that a ten percentage point increase in shortages is associated with an 8.53 percent decrease in materials input. Column 3 shows that shortages decrease the materials to labor ratio, consistent with columns 1 and 2. These estimates provide support for our modeling assumption in Section 7 that materials are fully flexible, while labor is not. Column 4 tests for

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<sup>20</sup>Although excluding state-specific linear trends does not affect the non-IV estimates, the IV first stages have no power when excluding the state-specific linear trends. The reason for this is suggested in Figure 7: the share of hydro in total electricity production has decreased over time in Karnataka and other states, so while annual changes in the hydro instrument are negatively associated with changes in shortages, levels of the instrument are not. Because the level of the hydro generation share decrease is mechanically larger in states with more hydro production, the year indicators do not properly control for this in the fixed effects estimator.

effects on fuel revenue share, where fuels equal total energy net of electricity. The effect should be and is statistically larger than the effect on energy revenue share, because the latter includes an increase in fuel input costs but a decrease in electricity purchases. Column 5 shows that shortages do not statistically affect electric intensity, measured in kWh per Rupee of revenues. In reality, there should be some small effect, consistent with the results from Fisher-Vanden, Mansur, and Wang (2012) for Chinese manufacturers. Our standard errors rule out that a ten percent increase in shortages causes more than a 0.0005 kWh/Rupee decrease in electric intensity. This is about 38 percent of the median, which is 0.013 kWh per Rupee. Although this could be economically meaningful, it provides some statistical support for our model’s simplifying assumption that  $\lambda$  is exogenous.

## 7 Simulations

### 7.1 Overview

In this section, we calibrate the model in Section 3 to the distribution of plants and production function parameters in the Annual Survey of Industries data. This parallels the empirical estimates in that both are based on the ASI, but here we simulate shortage effects instead of estimating them.

First, we simulate effects of shortages holding fixed each plant’s observed generator adoption decision from the ASI; we call these the *exogenous* generator simulations. We also present simulations with *endogenous* generator adoption decisions, which can be thought of as simulating the long-run effects of shortages. The endogenous generator simulations extend the empirical estimates from the previous section, which primarily identify short-run effects because they are largely identified off of annual variation. We then study how shortages differentially affect small vs. large plants and consider a counterfactual scenario using interruptible electricity contracts.

The simulations consider the population of plants that appear in the ASI in 2005. We report the mean effect across plants, weighted by each plant’s sampling weight. This is different than reporting output-weighted effects, which might be informative about aggregate sectoral implications. We do this to more closely match our empirical estimates, which are also not weighted by output. Output-weighted effects on revenues, TFPR, and profits would be smaller, because the largest plants are much more likely to own generators.

Shortage  $\delta$  is the CEA estimate for each plant’s state in 2005; this averages 7.1 percent across all plants.<sup>21,22</sup> Appendix Table A17 presents parameters used to calibrate the model. Production

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<sup>21</sup>We chose 2005 because it is both recent and very close to average: over the 1992-2010 sample, the average nationwide shortage ranged from 6.4 to 11.1 percent, and the mean reported in Table 1 is 7.2 percent.

<sup>22</sup>This assumes that all plants within a state are subject to the average outage rate. In reality, some plants or industrial areas have preferential electricity access, while others are in areas with particularly poor supply, and this within-state variation may be correlated with losses from outages. Unfortunately, this plant-specific variation is not possible to quantify on a nationwide basis. We also assume that shortages only act through blackouts and not through variations in quality such as lower voltage. Note that the empirical estimates in Section 6 do not require these assumptions: the empirical estimates reflect the causal relationship between state average shortage and manufacturing

function parameters are estimated as detailed in Section 3.5. For the relative cost of grid-purchased vs. self-generated electricity ( $p^{E,G}$  vs.  $p^{E,S}$ ), we use the World Bank Enterprise Survey medians. Only the ratio of  $p^{E,S}$  to  $p^{E,G}$  matters; from Table 2, this is  $7/4.5 \approx 1.56$ .

### 7.1.1 Modeling the Generator Purchase Decision

We model the decision to purchase a generator as a binary choice: either a plant owns a generator which is large enough to provide full backup during a power outage, or it does not own a generator. Because the ASI does not include data on generator capacity, we first calculate a simple, back-of-the-envelope estimate of each plant’s capacity requirement. To do this, we transform a plant’s total electricity consumption  $E_{it}$  (in kilowatt-hours) into the capacity required to provide that consumption assuming that plants use an equal flow of power for six hours per day, 365 days a year. Under this assumption, the median plant, for example, would require a generator with about 500 kilowatts (KW) of capacity.

A plant will purchase a generator if its generator cost is less than its variable profit increase. The variable profit increase is calculated by simulating variable profits with and without a generator, by inserting optimized labor and materials inputs into Equation (4). Based on conversations with three different generator vendors in India, we assume an annualized cost of Rs 1374 per KW capacity.

## 7.2 Predictions

Table 11 presents effects of shortages on manufacturers’ revenue, TFPR, and profits. Columns 1 and 2 present simulated effects with exogenous and endogenous generators, respectively<sup>23</sup>. To facilitate comparisons, the remainder of the columns restate results from earlier in the paper. Column 3 adds predictions based on the ASI empirical estimates: the predicted effects of a 7.1 percent shortage given the IV coefficients in Table 8. Column 4 presents the p-value of a test that the exogenous generator simulation results differ from the IV coefficient, with standard errors calculated using the Delta method. Column 5 restates the textile case study results from Section 4, while Column 6 gives self-reported output losses from the World Bank Enterprise Survey discussed in Section 2.

### 7.2.1 Exogenous Generator Predictions

The predictions with exogenous generators in Column 1 of Table 11 show that the average plant loses 4.6 percent of revenues due to a 7.1 percent electricity shortage. This revenue loss is very different for plants that have a generator versus those that do not. Plants with generators lose only 0.4 percent of revenues. The reason why this is so small is that there is no “shutdown effect,” i.e.

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outcomes, but they do not assume that manufacturers face that same average shortage or that the average shortage does not affect power quality.

<sup>23</sup>Since the model is not set up to exactly match each plant’s observed input choices of labor and materials, we simulate both the shortage and no-shortage counterfactuals and present the difference. If we instead compared the observed equilibrium to counterfactual simulations with no shortages, we would be capturing both the effects of shortages and the model’s prediction error.

no output is lost due to shutdown. Instead, all revenue losses come through the output tax effect: the reduction in the marginal product of materials and labor due to higher-cost self-generated electricity. The implicit output tax  $\mathcal{T}$  during outage periods is 2.8 percent: the 55 percent increase in electricity price when self-generating times the 5 percent revenue share of electricity. Given that shortages occur 7.1 percent of the year, weighted average unit input cost across all periods would rise by  $2.8\% \times 7.1\% \approx 0.2\%$  if output were constant, and slightly less given that plants reduce output during blackouts. The effect on revenue is small because this implicit tax is small.

By contrast, revenues fall by 9.6 percent for plants that do not have generators. This effect is larger than the 7.1 percent of the time when the plant cannot operate due to shortages, because the effect of shortages is amplified through the shutdown tax effect: expected power outages reduce the expected marginal revenue product of the semi-flexible input (labor) by  $\delta$ , causing firms to reduce labor input. The large simulated effects for non-generators and small simulated effects for self-generators are closely consistent with the differential IV estimates for generators and non-generators reproduced in Column 3. This is also consistent with the small revenue losses for textile plants with generators reproduced in Column 5.

Table 11 also shows the predicted effects of shortages on measured TFPR. As with revenue, the TFPR losses are very different for non-generators vs. self-generators: 3.4 percent vs. almost zero, respectively. The average TFPR loss is 1.6 percent. For plants that have generators, the TFPR loss is driven by the input variation effect: with a concave production function, it would have been more efficient to produce with a constant input bundle instead of different input bundles during outage vs. non-outage periods. Since plants that have generators do not reduce output very much during outages given the small implicit output tax  $\mathcal{T}$ , the input variation effect is quite small.

By contrast, the shutdown effect on TFPR - non-generators' loss of non-storable inputs of labor and capital during power outages - is much larger. If no inputs were fully flexible, then a 7.1 percent shortage would translate directly into a 7.1 percent TFPR loss for non-generators. However, plants that shut down during power outages can store materials. Given that the sum of labor and capital shares averages 20 percent, the shutdown effect on TFPR is much less than the 7.1 percent of the time that non-generators shut down due to outages.

### 7.2.2 Endogenous Generator Predictions

The large difference in losses between plants with vs. without generators begs the question of why many plants choose not to purchase generators. Can the simulations rationalize decisions to not purchase a generator?

The bottom part of Column 2 of Table 11 shows that 72 percent of plants are predicted to purchase generators. This is higher than the 54 percent of plants that ever report producing power and appear in the 2005 ASI, but substantially less than 100 percent. We can thus easily rationalize the incomplete generator adoption observed in the ASI: even if there are large losses from not purchasing generators, the capital cost is high enough that many plants do not adopt. The

share of plants that purchase generators is not very sensitive to the assumed generator cost. For example, at costs of 940 and 1500 Rupees per KW-year, respectively, 78 and 70 percent of plants purchase generators; the elasticity of generator adoption with respect to generator cost is -0.14. This inelasticity is due to a wide dispersion across plants of variable profit gains from generator ownership, which is primarily driven by the wide revenue productivity dispersion observed in the ASI, which is ubiquitous in producer-level datasets (Syverson 2011).

Column 2 in Table 11 shows that when generator adoption is endogenous, shortages are predicted to reduce revenues by 0.8 percent, TFPR by 0.1 percent, and variable profits by 0.9 percent. The variable profit losses do not include generator capital costs. This cost represents another 1.6 percent of profits for plants with generators, for a total profit loss of 2.3 percent for plants with generators. Taking the mean across the 72 percent of plants with generators and the 28 percent of plants without generators, the total profit loss including generator capital costs is  $72\% \times 2.3\% + 28\% \times 1.6\% \approx 2.1$  percent.

The predicted losses in Column 2 are much smaller than with exogenous generator ownership in Column 1, because the simulation in Column 2 allocates generators to plants with the highest simulated gains. By contrast, the generator adoption choices observed in the data depend on unobserved factors, so in Column 1 generators are not allocated to plants that are simulated to benefit from them the most.

### 7.2.3 Predictions: Models versus Regressions

Because the empirical estimates are identified off of annual variation in hydroelectric output, plants are unlikely to respond by changing generator stock, so it is most appropriate to compare empirical estimates to the exogenous generator simulations in Column 1. There is remarkable agreement between the empirical estimates and simulation results, especially once we account for the role of generators. Column 3 shows that the IV estimates predict that 7.1 percent average shortages reduce average revenues by 4.8 percent, against a simulated value of 4.6 percent in Column 1. Both the IV estimates and simulations predict that revenue losses for generators are very small and that revenue losses for non-generators are larger than the 7.1 percent average shortage. Finally, both the IV and simulations predict that TFPR losses are much smaller than revenue losses and that TFPR losses are focused on non-generators. Column 4 shows that all estimates are statistically indistinguishable, although one of the six is different with only slightly less than 90 percent confidence.

The results of the textile case study and World Bank Enterprise Survey data are also qualitatively consistent. All textile plants in the Bloom *et al.* (2013) data have generators, and revenue and TFPR losses from weekly power holidays are relatively small. The World Bank self-reported revenue losses are close to the simulation result and not statistically different from our IV estimates, and non-generators report larger losses than self-generators. Interestingly, however, self-generators still report 7.3 percent losses, which is larger than our empirical estimates or model can explain.



This highlights the importance of using actual empirical estimates instead of self-reports.<sup>24</sup>

Overall, the close correspondence between our model and estimates using different datasets and identification strategies gives us confidence in the empirical estimates as well as our understanding of the underlying mechanisms.

### 7.3 Robustness

How sensitive are the results to alternative assumptions? In the baseline estimates, we assume that plants face a CES demand curve with demand elasticity  $\epsilon = -10$ . This elasticity is important because it determines the markup ( $\epsilon = -10$  implies a  $-1/\epsilon=10$  percent markup) and thus profitability. It also determines how revenue responds to costs: when demand is more inelastic, a given change in costs results in a smaller change in output. When we use an elasticity of  $\epsilon = -4$  in the exogenous generator simulations, consistent with Bloom (2009) and Asker, Collard-Wexler, and De Loecker (2014), revenues drop by 4.0 percent instead of 4.6 percent.<sup>25</sup> When we assume that self-generated electricity actually costs four times as much as grid electricity, or 18 Rupees/kWh instead of the World Bank median of 7, revenue losses are 5.5 percent instead of 4.6 percent. Appendix Table A18 presents the detailed results of these alternative simulations. While our assumptions on demand elasticity and price of self-generated electricity are relatively difficult to substantiate, our qualitative conclusions do not hinge on these assumptions.

### 7.4 Predictions Under Varying Shortage Levels

Table 12 simulates the effects of shortages at levels ranging from 3 to 20 percent relative to zero shortage. While this table is structured similarly to Table 11, the exact results are not comparable because Table 12 assumes that all plants nationwide face the same shortage, instead of their state-specific shortage from 2005. The top and bottom panels present simulations with exogenous and endogenous generators, respectively.

With exogenous generator choices, average revenue losses increase linearly from 1.9 to 13 percent as average shortages increase from 3 to 20 percent. By contrast, with endogenous generator adoption, the average revenue loss rise non-linearly from 0.7 percent to 1.5 percent as shortages

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<sup>24</sup>It could be that managers of plants with generators interpreted the question as to include capital costs of generators. Such alternative interpretations of self-reported data are yet another reason why empirical estimates are important.

<sup>25</sup>To get a sense of whether our simulations are reasonable, we can compare results to Davis, Grim, and Haltiwanger (2008), who investigate the elasticity of revenue with respect to the price of electricity in the United States. Since a power outage is equivalent to an increase in the price of electricity for plants with generators, we can compare the elasticity of revenue with respect to electricity price in our model to the one estimated in Davis, Grim and Haltiwanger (2008). We compute an elasticity of revenue with respect to the price of electricity of -0.2 when we assume  $\epsilon = -10$ , and -0.4 when we assume  $\epsilon = -20$ , while Davis, Grim and Haltiwanger (2008) find an elasticity of -0.6. If anything, our model thus under-predicts the response of revenue to shortages for generators, but not by a large amount. On the other hand, the Davis, Grim, and Haltiwanger (2008) estimate is quite large, and it is somewhat difficult to explain given how small electricity is as a share to total costs.

increase from 3 to 20 percent. With endogenous generators, the average revenue loss reflects the combination of two forces. First, revenue losses increase as shortages worsen for both generators and non-generators. Second, however, more plants adopt generators as shortages worsen, and revenue losses are smaller for plants with generators. This decreases the weighted average revenue loss.

Variable profit losses scale very closely with revenue losses in percentage terms. The second-to-bottom row in each panel presents generator capacity costs as a percent of profits. With exogenous generator choices, this is constant at 2.5 percent of profits. With endogenous choices, this increases monotonically in the shortage as takeup rate increases. Total profit losses are the sum of variable profit losses and generator capacity costs.

## 7.5 Impact of Shortages by Plant Size

How do electricity shortages affect different types of plants? Hsieh and Klenow (2012) propose that electricity shortages combined with differential access to grid electricity could be an important factor benefiting large plants. We focus on a different mechanism for differential impacts by plant size: economies of scale in self-generation. On a broader level, these economies of scale are important, and they explain why electricity is usually generated by a few centralized power plants. For manufacturers, capacity is much cheaper for larger plants: typical generator prices drop by 30 to 45 percent as capacity increases from 60 to 1,000 KW.

Figure 8 presents the non-parametric relationship between plant size and predicted variable profit losses in the exogenous generator simulation with 7.1 percent average shortages, which is the same setup as Column 1 of Table 11. Plants with 10 workers face an average profit loss of seven percent, while plants with 1000 workers suffer a two percent average profit loss. These differences are driven almost entirely by the empirical distribution of generator ownership: 23 percent of small plants in 2005 have generators, while 55 percent of large plants have them. Appendix Table A19 presents additional simulation results for large vs. small plants, as well as more vs. less electric intensive plants.

## 7.6 Counterfactual: Effects of Shortages with Interruptible Contracts

Given that 54 percent of manufacturing plants use generators, this “distributed generation” provides production capacity that would optimally be exploited during times of scarcity. Currently, there are plants that have generators but don’t use them because they receive grid power, while other nearby plants without generators simultaneously experience outages. Interruptible electricity contracts offer consumers a rebate for accepting outages during times of scarcity. If distribution companies offer both uninterruptible and interruptible contracts and allow consumers to sort into their preferred contract, this provides a mechanism to allocate outages to plants that are least affected.

We simulate the effects of allowing plants to select into one of two contracts, one which will never experience outages, and one which will experience outages 14.2 percent of the time - twice the national average outage rate. The market-clearing rebate for the interruptible contract is pinned down by the maximum profit loss of the plants that comprise 50 percent of grid electricity consumption. When this 50 percent of consumption is interrupted 14.2 percent of the time, this allows the uninterruptible contracts to be fulfilled. Because larger plants have generators and are thus willing to accept interruptible contracts at lower rebates, only 8.9 percent of plants need to opt into the interruptible contract to clear the market. Under this counterfactual policy, revenue, TFPR, and variable profit losses average only 0.15, 0.04, and 0.20 percent, respectively. These losses are much smaller than the 4.6, 1.6, and 6.8 percent reported in Column 1 of Table 11.

## 8 Conclusion

India’s lack of reliable electricity supply provides a stark example of how poor infrastructure affects economic growth. We study the effects of shortages on manufacturing using archival data on shortages, previously-unavailable panel data from the Annual Survey of Industries, and a new instrument for shortages based on variation in hydro reservoir inflows. We augment this with a detailed case study of how textile plants in Bloom *et al.* (2013) respond to planned power holidays. We use a hybrid Leontief/Cobb-Douglas production function model to clarify the different ways in which input shortages affect firms and use simulations to confirm empirical results and extend to the “long-run” case with endogenous generator adoption.

There are three main conclusions. First, electricity shortages are a large drag on Indian manufacturing, on the order of five percent of revenue. Second, however, electricity shortages affect productivity much less than revenue, and shortages alone certainly do not explain much of the productivity gap between firms in developing vs. developed countries. Third, shortages have heterogeneous effects across plants with vs. without generators and with high vs. low electric intensity. Relatedly, because of economies of scale in self-generation, small plants are less likely to own generators, meaning that shortages have much stronger negative effects on small plants. This adds another distortion to the firm size distribution in developing countries, related to the discussion of Hsieh and Olken (2014), Tybout (2000), and others.

Even if it is infeasible to sufficiently increase generation capacity or to raise electricity prices during periods of scarcity, our analysis suggests that two policy changes could reduce losses from shortages. First, our textile case study illustrates how advance knowledge of outages through planned power holidays can mitigate TFP losses by making additional inputs storable. Second, mechanisms such as interruptible contracts allow plants that have lower costs of outages to reveal this to the distribution company. This allows shortages to be “targeted” at firms that can more easily accommodate them.

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## Tables

Table 1: **State-Level Data Summary Statistics**

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.	N
Assessed Demand (TWh)	20.01	22.74	0	128.3	509
Quantity Supplied (TWh)	18.27	20.17	0	107.02	509
Shortage	0.07	0.07	0	0.36	507
Peak Shortage	0.11	0.1	0	0.5	507
Reservoir Inflows (Billion Cubic Meters)	5.19	13.73	0	115.98	570
Hydro Generation (TWh)	2.46	3.1	0	15.27	570
Total Electricity Sold (TWh)	12.86	15.14	0.05	87.53	543
Average Cooling Degrees (F), Base 65	12.32	3.3	2	18.94	543
Annual Rainfall (meters)	1.36	0.63	0.27	5.01	551

Notes: This table presents descriptive statistics for data that vary at the state-by-year level. The first six variables are from the Central Electricity Authority, while the temperature and rainfall data are from the National Climate Centre. Cooling degrees for day  $\tau = \max(0, \text{Average Temperature}_\tau(\text{F}) - 65)$ .

Table 2: **Power Cuts and Plant Size in the 2005 World Bank Enterprise Survey**

Plant Descriptions	Small Plants	Large Plants
Number of Plants Surveyed	1719	306
Number of Workers (Mean)	23	494
Gross sales, in million Rupees (Median)	5.7	172
<b>Electricity Shortage Questions</b>		
How [many times in 2005] did your establishment experience power outages or surges? (Mean)	132	99
Does your establishment own or share a generator? (Percent)	46	83
What percent of your electricity comes from the generator? (Mean)	10	17
What is the average cost [in Rs/kWh] for generator electricity? (Median)	7	7
What is the average cost [in Rs/kWh] for public grid electricity? (Median)	4.5	4.5
What were your percentage losses from power outages or surges? (Mean)	8.0	4.9
Electricity is the "biggest obstacle for operation/growth" (Percent)	34	26

Notes: "Small Plants" have less than 100 workers, while "Large Plants" have 100 or more workers.

Table 3: **Textile Output on Power Holidays**

Dependent Variable: Output	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1(Power Holiday)	-0.097 (0.025)***	-0.074 (0.017)***	-0.006 (0.022)	0.025 (0.027)
1(Power Holiday) x Shortage			-0.006 (0.003)**	-0.006 (0.003)**
Shortage			0.001 (0.004)	0.001 (0.004)
Number of Obs.	26,114	26,114	26,114	26,114
Number of Clusters	22	22	22	22
Day-of-Sample Controls	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Power Holiday x Month Controls	No	No	No	Yes

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (19). The dependent variable is  $\tilde{Q}_{i\tau}$ , plant  $i$ 's production on day  $\tau$ , normalized by plant  $i$ 's average daily production. Robust standard errors, clustered by plant. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

Table 4: **Textile Monthly Energy Cost Regressions**

Dependent Variable: Energy Cost	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Power Holiday Output Share	0.610 (0.362)	0.791 (0.314)**	0.821 (0.335)**	0.811 (0.343)**
Normalized Output			0.237 (0.167)	0.232 (0.167)
Shortage				-0.003 (0.005)
$N$	307	307	307	307
Month-by-Year Controls	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (20). The dependent variable for columns 1-5 is  $\tilde{F}_{im}$ , plant  $i$ 's total energy cost in month  $m$ , normalized by plant  $i$ 's average monthly energy cost. Robust standard errors, clustered by plant. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.



Table 5: **Losses on Planned Power Holidays**

<b>Input Cost Effect</b>	
Mean share of output on power holidays ( $G$ )	0.11
Increase in energy costs when self-generating ( $\hat{\eta}_1$ )	0.81
Median energy revenue share	0.026
Input cost increase (share of revenues)	0.0024
<b>Output Loss</b>	
Share of days that are power holidays	1/7
Output loss on power holidays ( $\hat{\rho}$ )	0.074
Share of output lost	0.011
<b>Shutdown Effect on Measured TFP</b>	
Share of fixed inputs (capital) ( $\beta_K$ )	0.05
$\ln(\text{TFP})$ change: $\beta_K \ln(1 - \text{Outputloss})$	-0.00053

Notes: This table presents estimates of textile plants' losses on planned power holidays, using empirical estimates from Tables 3 and 4.

Table 6: **Annual Survey of Industries Summary Statistics**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>	<b>Min.</b>	<b>Max.</b>	<b>N</b>
Revenues (million Rupees)	323	3698	0	788,867	614,347
Capital Stock (million Rupees)	127	1751	0	297,370	612,832
Total Persons Engaged	164	717	0	52,148	577,295
Materials Purchased (million Rupees)	210	2712	0	636,137	607,536
Fuels Purchased (million Rupees)	13.3	177	0	39,360	560,131
Electricity Purchased (million Rupees)	8.69	82.9	0	9935	561,464
Electricity Consumed (GWh)	3.4	51.8	0	7357	596,407
Electricity Purchased (GWh)	2.17	33.0	0	6545	599,717
Electricity Self-Generated (GWh)	1.23	35.0	0	7147	598,619
1(Self-Generator)	0.54	0.5	0	1	616,129
Electric Intensity (kWh/Rs)	0.01	0.02	0	0.39	599,116
Self-Generation Share	0.08	0.19	0	1	592,914
Energy Revenue Share	0.11	0.16	0	3.23	597,437
1(Census Scheme)	0.41	0.49	0	1	616,129
Plant Number of Observations	5.86	4.97	1	19	616,129

Notes: Rupees are constant 2004 Rupees. 1(Census Scheme) takes value 1 for plants with more than 100 workers which are surveyed each year, and value 0 for Sample Scheme for smaller plants in the rotating panel. Excludes observations flagged as “within-plant outliers” using the procedure described in Appendix A.

Table 7: **Assessing the Hydro Instrument**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Outcome Variable:	Shortage	Shortage	ln(Agri Output)	ln(Quantity Supplied)	ln(Assessed Demand)
$\Delta$ Hydro	-0.048 (0.017)***	-0.046 (0.025)*	0.149 (0.117)	0.063 (0.032)**	0.014 (0.026)
$\Delta$ ln(Rainfall)		-0.009 (0.009)	0.156 (0.059)**		
$\Delta$ Cooling Degrees		-0.002 (0.003)	-0.027 (0.020)		
$R^2$	0.14	0.15	0.27	0.17	0.22
$N$	469	454	398	469	469

Robust standard errors. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

Table 8: **Base Specifications***Panel A: Difference Estimator*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.227 (0.023)***	-0.037 (0.055)	0.022 (0.040)	0.091 (0.029)***
Number of Obs.	172,396	220,701	374,283	366,446
Number of Clusters	2,781	2,936	3,262	3,261

*Panel B: Instrumental Variables*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.571 (0.106)***	0.633 (0.230)***	-0.680 (0.327)**	0.034 (0.141)
Number of Obs.	172,396	220,701	374,283	366,446
Number of Clusters	2,781	2,936	3,262	3,261

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (22). Panel B instruments for Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Robust standard errors, clustered by state-by-year difference. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively. Samples for columns 1 and 2 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity.

Table 9: **Instrumental Variables Estimates with Moderators**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	-0.029 (0.038)	1.165 (0.818)	-1.918 (0.959)**	0.258 (0.373)
$\Delta$ Shortage x Elec Intensive	0.069 (0.079)	0.884 (0.456)*	-1.549 (0.502)***	-0.335 (0.303)
$\Delta$ Shortage x Self-Generator	0.572 (0.107)***	-0.907 (0.794)	2.356 (0.980)**	-0.078 (0.382)
Number of Obs.	301,490	343,804	374,283	366,446
Number of Clusters	3,187	3,213	3,262	3,261

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (22), instrumenting for Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Electric Intensive is an indicator variable for being in an industry with above median electricity use per unit revenues. Regressions also include lower-order interactions of Electric Intensive and Self-Generator with year difference indicators  $\theta_{iy}$  and state indicators  $\psi_s$ . Robust standard errors, clustered by state-by-year difference. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

Table 10: **Instrumental Variables Estimates for Additional Outcomes**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Outcome Variable:	ln(Labor)	ln(Materials)	ln(Materials/ Labor)	ln(Fuel Rev Share)	Electric Intensity
$\Delta$ Shortage	-0.173 (0.218)	-0.828 (0.324)**	-0.715 (0.257)***	1.736 (0.467)***	0.005 (0.006)
Number of Obs.	375,220	367,602	366,935	212,627	356,805
Number of Clusters	3,272	3,253	3,253	2,677	3,230

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (22) for additional outcomes, instrumenting for Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Electric Intensity for plant  $i$  in year  $t$  is the ratio of kWh of electricity consumed to revenues. Robust standard errors, clustered by state-by-year difference. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively. Samples for columns 1 and 2 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity.

Table 11: **Simulation versus Estimates**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Simulation: Exogenous Generator	Simulation: Endogenous Generator	IV Estimate	P-Value for Columns (1) vs. (3)	Textiles	World Bank Survey
<u>Revenue Loss</u>						
All	4.6%	0.8%	4.8%	(0.81)		7.8%
Generators	0.4%	0.5%	-1.7%	(0.28)	1.1%	7.3%
Non-Generators	9.6%	1.6%	20.0%	(0.15)		8.4%
<u>TFPR Loss</u>						
All	1.6%	0.1%	0.2%	(0.22)		
Generators	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	(0.97)	0.05%	
Non-Generators	3.4%	0.4%	-1.0%	(0.10)		
<u>Input Cost Increase</u>						
Generators	0.5%	0.6%	0.13 to 0.5%		0.24%	
<u>Variable Profit Loss</u>						
All	6.8%	0.9%				
Generators	0.6%	0.7%				
Non-Generators	11.5%	1.6%				
Generator Takeup Rate	54%*	72%			100%*	52%*

Notes: “Simulation” refers to the predictions of the model using the 2005 ASI and described in text. The simulations with “exogenous” generators hold fixed the generator adoption decision observed in the ASI, while the simulations with “endogenous” generators use the model’s prediction of which plants will purchase generators at the different shortage levels. TFPR is defined as the residual of the revenue generating production function using the approach described in Section 3. Input Cost Increase is reported as a share of revenues. The share of plants predicted to purchase a generator assumes an annualized cost of 1374 Rupees per KW-year. \* indicates that the generator takeup rate is data, not a prediction. “IV Estimate” refers to the estimates in Table 8 and Appendix Table A15, extrapolated under a 7.1 percent shortage. “P-Value” is the p-value for the test of whether the model’s prediction with exogenous generators is equal to the IV estimate. “Textiles” refers to estimates in Table 5. “World Bank Survey” refers to self-reported data from the 2005 World Bank Enterprise Survey.

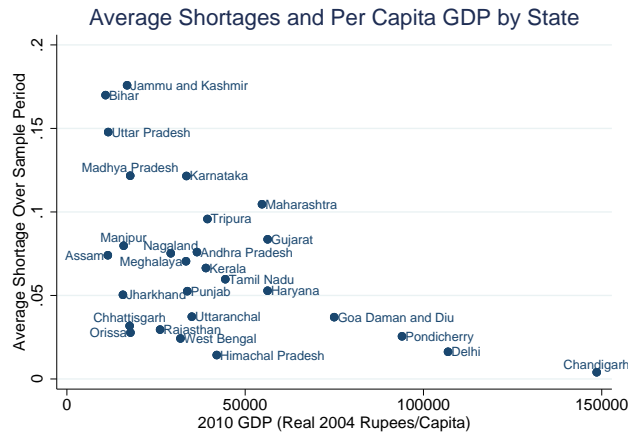
Table 12: Counterfactuals Under Varying Shortage Levels

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Shortage Percent ( $\delta$ ):	3%	5%	7%	10%	20%
<b>Exogenous Generators</b>					
Revenue Loss: Average	1.9%	3.2%	4.5%	6.4%	13%
Revenue Loss: Generators	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%	1.5%
Revenue Loss: Non-Generators	4.0%	6.7%	9.4%	13%	25%
TFPR Loss: Average	0.6%	1.0%	1.5%	2.1%	4.4%
Input Cost Increase: Generators	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%	1.5%
Variable Profit Loss: Average	2.0%	3.5%	5.0%	7.4%	17%
Generator Cost (Percent of Profits)	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Total Profit Loss: Average	4.5%	6.0%	7.5%	9.9%	20%
<b>Endogenous Generators</b>					
Generator Takeup	85%	90%	94%	96%	100%
Revenue Loss: Average	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	1.5%
Revenue Loss: Generators	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%	1.4%
Revenue Loss: Non-Generators	4.0%	6.4%	8.7%	12%	23%
TFPR Loss: Average	0.10%	0.11%	0.08%	0.08%	0.05%
Input Cost Increase: Generators	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%	1.5%
Variable Profit Loss: Average	0.7%	0.9%	1.0%	1.2%	1.8%
Generator Cost (Percent of Profits)	1.4%	1.6%	1.8%	2.0%	2.4%
Total Profit Loss: Average	2.1%	2.5%	2.8%	3.2%	4.2%

Notes: This table presents predictions of the simulation model described in the text. The simulations with “exogenous” generators hold fixed the generator adoption decision observed in the ASI, while the simulations with “endogenous” generators use the model’s prediction of which plants will purchase generators at the different shortage levels. Input Cost Increase is reported as a share of revenues. In this table, the electricity shortage is uniform across all plants in all states. The share of plants predicted to purchase a generator assumes an annualized cost of 1374 Rupees per KW-year.

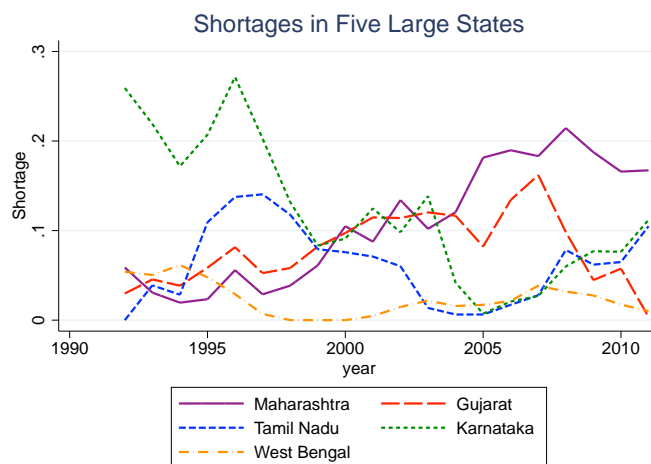
## Figures

**Figure 1: Average Shortages and Per Capita GDP by State**



Notes: This figure compares the average of shortages estimated by the Central Electricity Authority to the 2010 per capita GDP, for all states and Union Territories.

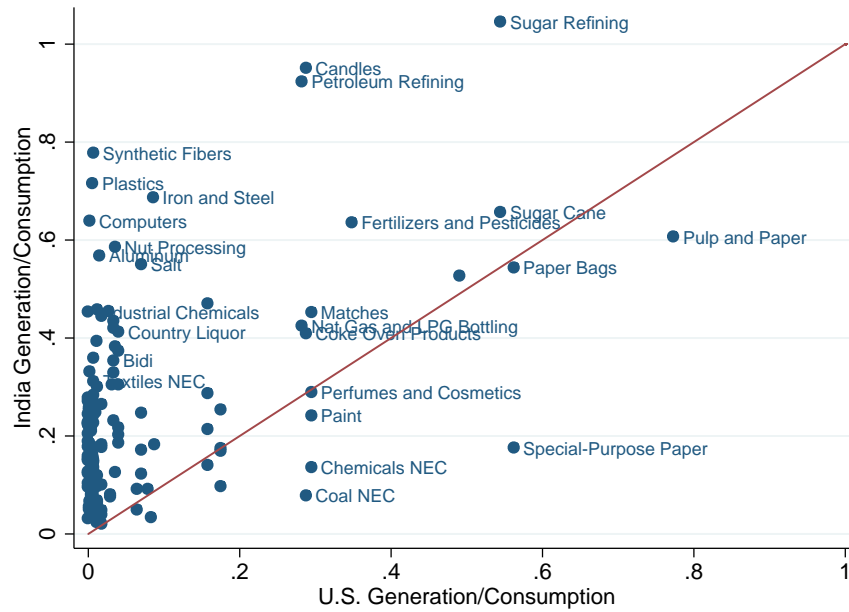
**Figure 2: Variation in Shortages Over Time**



Notes: This figure presents shortages over the study period for five large states, as estimated by the Central Electricity Authority.

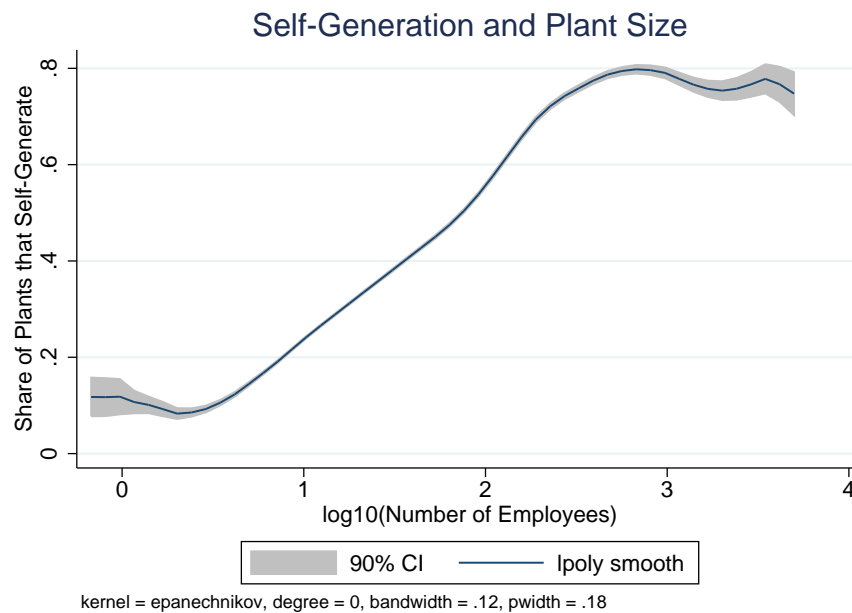


Figure 3: **Manufacturing Electricity Generation in India vs. the U.S.**



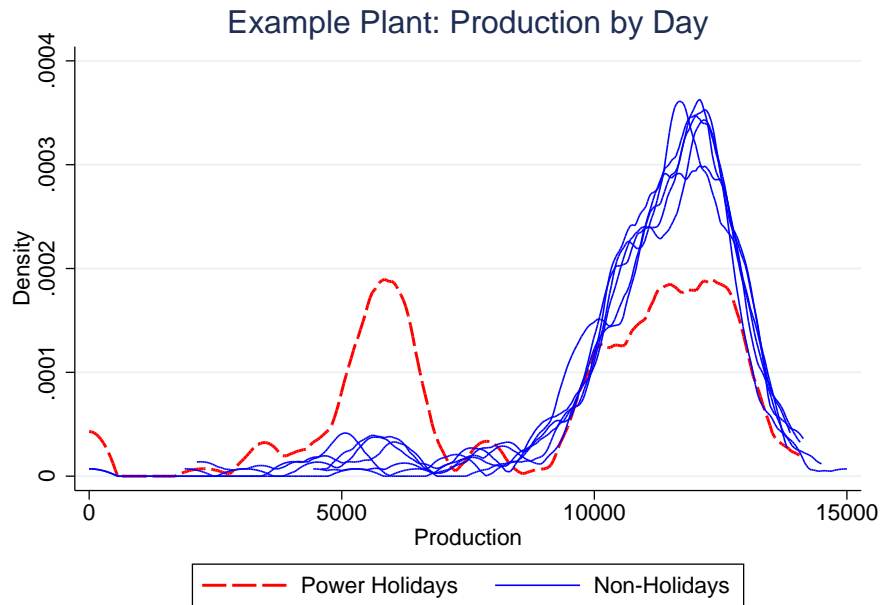
Notes: This figure presents the ratio of electricity generation to consumption by three-digit industry. Indian and U.S. data are from the Annual Survey of Industries and the Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey, respectively.

Figure 4: **Generator Ownership and Plant Size**



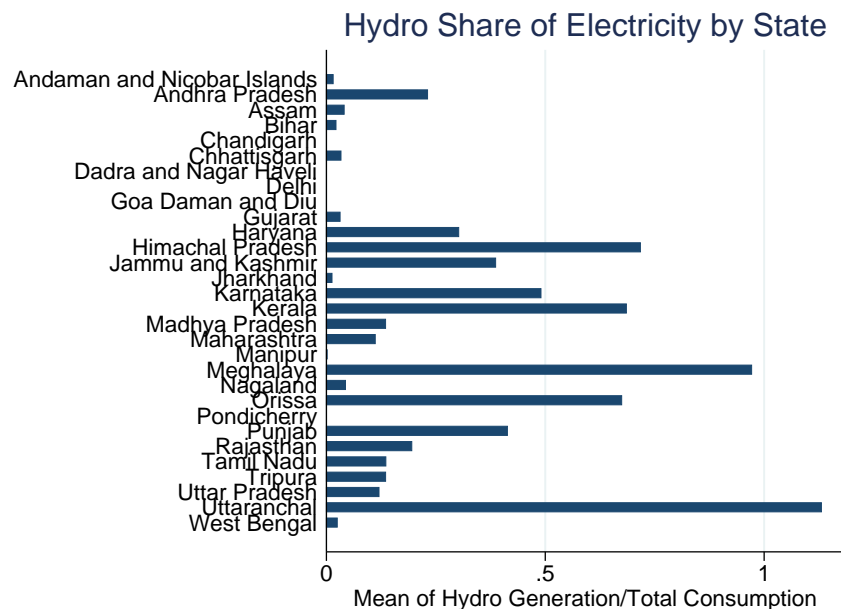
Notes: This figure presents local mean-smoothed estimates of the share of plants in all years of the Annual Survey of Industries sample that ever report self-generation, as a function of number of employees.

Figure 5: **Output on Power Holidays and Non-Holidays**



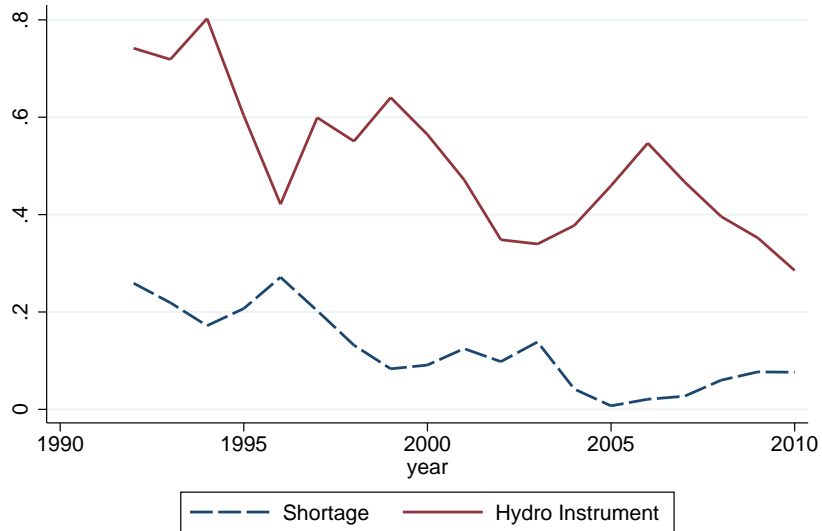
Notes: This figure presents the distribution of production by day of week for an example plant, using an Epanechnikov kernel with bandwidth 250. For this plant, every Friday is a power holiday.

Figure 6: **Hydro Share of Electricity by State**



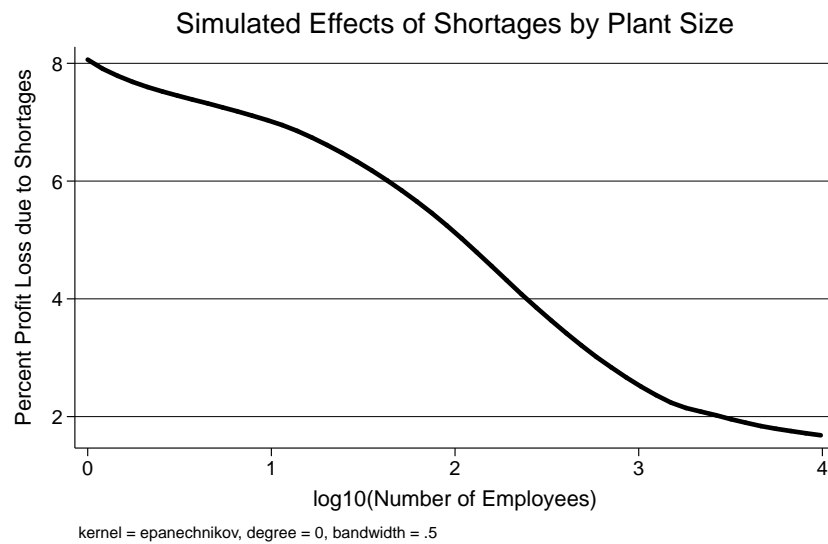
Notes: This figure presents the each state's mean ratio of hydroelectricity production to total consumption over 1992-2010. The graph includes only larger states with GDP larger than one billion Rupees in the year 2004 and with non-zero manufacturing production.

Figure 7: **First Stage in Karnataka**  
Hydro Instrument and Shortages in Karnataka



Notes: This figure presents shortages and the hydro instrument over the study period in the state of Karnataka.

Figure 8: **Plant Size and Predicted Profit Losses from Power Outages**



**Online Appendix: Not for Publication**

How Do Electricity Shortages Affect Productivity? Evidence from India

*Hunt Allcott, Allan Collard-Wexler, and Stephen D. O'Connell*

## A Appendix: Annual Survey of Industries Data Preparation

We extract a subset of variables from the raw data separately for each year and then stack all years of data together.<sup>26</sup> We correct accounts in 1993-94 to 1997-98 whose values have been supplied in “pre-multiplied” format from the Central Statistical Organisation’s Ministry of Statistics and Planning Implementation (CSO/MOSPI). We then merge in state names based on the coding schemes provided with the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) documentation, and we create a separate consistently-defined state variable which takes into account the creation of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal (now Uttarakhand) in 2001 from Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, respectively.

India classifies manufacturing establishments with its National Industrial Classification (NIC), which resemble industrial classifications commonly used in other countries. The classifications were revised in 1987, 1998, 2004, and 2008. We convert all industry classifications to the NIC-1987 scheme using concordances provided by MOSPI with our data purchases. All financial amounts are deflated to constant 2004-05 Rupees. Revenue (gross sales) is deflated by a three-digit commodity price deflators as available in the commodity-based table “Index Numbers Of Wholesale Prices In India – By Groups And Sub-Groups (Yearly Averages)” produced by the GOI Office of the Economic Adviser-Ministry of Commerce & Industry<sup>27</sup>. Each three-digit NIC-1987 code is assigned to a commodity listed in this table. The corresponding commodity deflator is used to deflate revenues. To deflate material inputs, we construct the average output deflator of a given industry’s supplier industries based on India’s 1993-94 input-output table, available from the Central Statistical Organization. Fuels and total energy costs (fuels plus electricity) are deflated by the price index for “Fuel, Power, Light, and Lubricants.” Capital is deflated by an implied national deflator calculated from “Table 13: Sector-wise Gross Capital Formation” from the Reserve Bank of India’s Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy.<sup>28</sup> Electricity costs are deflated using a national GDP deflator.

The ASI data have at least two well-known shortcomings. First, while the data are representative of small registered factories and a 100 percent sample of large registered factories, not all factories are actually registered under the Factories Act. Nagaraj (2002) shows that only 48 percent and 43 percent of the number of manufacturing establishments in the 1980 and 1990 economic censuses appear in the ASI data for those years. Although it is not clear how our results might differ for unregistered plants, the plants that are observed in the ASI are still a significant share of plants in India. Second, value added may be under-reported, perhaps associated with tax evasion, by using accounting loopholes to overstate input costs or under-state revenues (Nagaraj 2002). As long as changes in this under-reporting are not correlated with electricity shortages, this will not affect our results.

### A.1 Determination of Base Sample

Appendix Table A21 details how the sample in Table 6 is determined from the original set of observations in the ASI. The 1992-2010 ASI dataset begins with 949,992 plant-year observations. Plants may still appear in the data even if they are closed or did not provide a survey response. We drop 172,697 of these plants reported as closed or non-responsive. We drop a trivial number of observations missing state identifiers and observations in Sikkim, which has only been included in the ASI sampling frame in the most recent years. We drop 45,664 observations reporting non-manufacturing NIC codes. We remove a small number of observations (primarily in the early years of our sample) which are exact duplicates in all fields, assuming these are erroneous multiple entries made from the same questionnaire form. Since we are concerned largely with revenue and productivity, we remove the 102,036 observations with missing revenues. We also drop the 9,095 observations with two or more input revenue share flags.

With this intermediate sample, we use median regression to estimate revenue productivity (TFPR) under a full Cobb-Douglas model in capital, labor, materials, and energy. This full Cobb-Douglas revenue

<sup>26</sup>We thank Jagadeesh Sivadasan for helpful discussions and for providing Stata code that facilitated the read-in of 1992-1997 ASI data. We thank Olivier Dupriez for similarly helpful discussions and pointing us to read-in programs for ASI data from 1998 to 2007 available at the International Household Survey Network (<http://catalog.ihsn.org/index.php/catalog/central>).

<sup>27</sup>Available from <http://www.eaindustry.nic.in/>

<sup>28</sup>Available from <http://www.rbi.org.in>

productivity term is used only for the final sample restriction, which is to drop 464 plant-years which have log-TFPR greater than 3.5 in absolute value from the sample median. Such outlying TFPR values strongly suggest misreported inputs or revenues. The final sample is comprised of 616,129 plant-years, of which 362,439 are from the sample scheme and 253,690 are from the census scheme.

## A.2 Variable-Specific Sample Restrictions

After the final sample is determined, there may still be observations which have correct data for most variables but misreported data for some individual variable. When analyzing specific variables (such as self-generation share, energy revenue share, or output in Table 8), we therefore additionally restrict the sample using the following criteria:

- We generate “input revenue share flags” for labor and materials if input cost is more than two times revenues, and we generate input revenue share flags for electricity and fuels if input cost is greater than revenues.<sup>29</sup> Because we also observe physical quantities for labor and electricity, we generate analogous input revenue share flags by multiplying physical quantities by prices, resulting in an implied revenue share based on these physical quantities. For electricity, we use the median real price (in Rs/kWh) of purchased electricity in any given state and year. For labor, we assume a very conservative 1,000 Rs per person per annum wage rate. When using either of these inputs as an outcome, we omit observations with an input revenue share flag for that input.
- There are a trivial number of observations which report unrealistic count of persons engaged (greater than 200,000), which we make missing in those cases.
- We generate “within-plant outlier” flags for observations with unrealistically large year-to-year fluctuations in revenue, TFPR, or any input. We flag observations if the change in logged value is more than 3.5 (or 1.5 in a robustness check) from both adjacent observations. For a plants’ first or last year, it is flagged if the change is more than 3.5 (or 1.5) from the plant’s one adjacent observation.

### A.2.1 Cleaning Electricity Variables

We clean electricity variables in the following ways:

- We make electricity consumption missing for all observations that report zero electricity consumption (other than brick kilns).
- We make all electricity variables missing if the plant reports consuming more than 110 percent or less than 90 percent of the total amount of electricity they report purchasing and generating.
- We make missing the values of electricity purchased and sold if the implied price per kilowatt-hour is less than 2 percent or more than 5000 percent of the median grid electricity price calculated across plants in the same state and year. We also make missing the reported quantities of electricity purchased and sold if the respective price flag is triggered.

### A.2.2 Production Function and Productivity Estimation

We recover production function coefficients given by Equations (9), (10), and (11) for each of the 143 three-digit industries in the dataset. (To ensure sufficient sample size in each three-digit industry, we adjust industry definitions slightly to ensure each three-digit industry has at least 100 plant-year observations.) We use separate median regression for each two-digit industry, allowing for a linear time trend and separate intercepts for each underlying three-digit industry. Consistent with the description in Section 3, the estimation sample includes only census scheme plant-year observations that report zero electricity generation. After calculating production function coefficients, we compute TFPR from Equation (12).

<sup>29</sup>The flags would be slightly different if applied to deflated inputs and revenues, but this will have minimal implications for the results.

We use several alternative methods for calculating production function coefficients and TFPR for robustness checks:

- To check if our results are sensitive to assumptions about elasticity of demand, we calculate revenue productivity terms for  $\epsilon = -4$  and  $\epsilon = -\infty$ .
- We calculate an alternative materials term that adds the estimated cost of fuels not used for electricity generation. (To avoid relying on this estimated cost, our usual materials term does not include any fuels, so these costs do not enter the production function.)
- Omitting the linear time trend when estimating production coefficients, which amounts to taking the unconditional median by industry of the revenue shares for materials, labor, and electricity.
- Because in some industries plants with no self-generation may be unusual, we estimate production functions and revenue productivity using all plants, i.e. including those that self-generate.

## B Appendix: Additional Tables

### B.1 Supporting Tables for Textile Case Study

Table A1: **Power Holidays**

Number of Plants	State	Scheduled Power Holidays
1	Gujarat	Saturday before Sept 26, 2008; Sunday between Sept 26, 2008 and July 10, 2009; Monday after July 10, 2009
1	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Sunday
1	Gujarat	Saturday before July 10, 2009; Sunday after July 10, 2009
1	Maharashtra	Tuesday
1	Maharashtra	None
3	Gujarat	Saturday before July 10, 2009; Monday after July 10, 2009
14	Maharashtra	Friday

Notes: This table lists the scheduled power holidays for the textile case study in Section 4

Table A2: **Textile Summary Statistics**

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.	N
<b>Daily Data</b>					
Production (1000s of Picks)	442	1455	0	9098	26,114
Percent Grade A	55.3	28.5	0	100	12,489
Quality Defect Index	4.02	5.0	0.13	56.6	13,223
1(Power Holiday)	0.14	0.34	0	1	46,288
<b>Monthly Data</b>					
Energy Costs (Rs 1000s)	300	282	8.88	1466	307
Labor (1000s of Hours)	32.3	20.7	4.39	148	575
Power Holiday Output Share	0.11	0.05	0	0.33	902
Diesel Price (Rs/liter)	35	1.67	31.4	38.3	902
Shortage	14.46	7.5	0	25.7	902

Notes: This table presents summary statistics for the textile case study in section 4. The top panel includes the variables observed for each day. There are two measures of quality: the percent of fabric graded quality level A, and the Quality Defect Index, a severity-weighted measure of the number of defects per meter of fabric. The bottom panel includes variables observed for each month. “Shortage” is the Central Electricity Authority’s monthly estimated electricity shortage percentage for the state where the plant is located. Diesel prices are the Mumbai prices recorded by the website [mypetrolprice.com](http://mypetrolprice.com). All rupees are deflated to constant 2004-2005 values using the textile wholesale price index.



## B.2 First Stages

Table A3: **First Stages for Base IV Estimates**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Fuel Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFP)
$\Delta$ Hydro	-0.134 (0.020)***	-0.139 (0.019)***	-0.100 (0.016)***	-0.101 (0.016)***
Number of Obs.	172,317	220,613	374,158	366,302
Number of Clusters	2,781	2,936	3,262	3,261
A-P F-Stat	43.98	52.51	39.36	39.6

Notes: This table presents the first stage estimates for the IV regressions in Panel B of Table 8. Samples for columns 1 and 2 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity. F-statistic is for the heteroskedasticity and cluster-robust Angrist-Pischke weak instruments test. Robust standard errors, clustered by state-by-year difference. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

Table A4: **Additional First Stages for Self-Generation Share**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Outcome Variable:	$\Delta$ Shortage	$\Delta$ Shortage	$\Delta$ Shortage	$\Delta$ Shortage	$\Delta$ Shortage x Elec Int	$\Delta$ Shortage x Self-Gen
$\Delta$ Hydro	-0.134 (0.038)***	-0.110 (0.027)***	-0.130 (0.021)***	-0.062 (0.016)***	0.018 (0.004)***	-0.003 (0.002)*
$\Delta$ Rainfall			-0.007 (0.005)			
$\Delta$ Cooling Degrees			0.000 (0.002)			
$\Delta$ Hydro x Elec Intensive				0.009 (0.005)*	-0.088 (0.015)***	0.006 (0.003)**
$\Delta$ Hydro x Self-Generator				-0.076 (0.016)***	-0.036 (0.008)***	-0.133 (0.020)***
Number of Obs.	172,317	124,771	170,356	301,386	320,545	320,545
Number of Clusters	30	491	2,719	3,187	3,229	3,229
A-P F-Stat	12.51	16.1	40.28	43.95	32.44	43.95

Notes: This table presents the first stage estimates for alternative specifications with potentially weakest first stage identification, using the sample with self-generation share as the outcome variable. Column 1 clusters by state instead of state-by-year difference. All other columns cluster by state-by-year difference. Column 2 includes one-year differences only. Column 3 controls for rainfall and cooling degrees. Columns 4-6 are the three first stages for Table 9. Samples for columns 1, 2, and 3 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity. F-statistic is for the heteroskedasticity and cluster-robust Angrist-Pischke weak instruments test. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

Table A5: **Additional First Stages for  $\ln(\text{Revenue})$** 

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Outcome Variable:	$\Delta$ Shortage	$\Delta$ Shortage	$\Delta$ Shortage	$\Delta$ Shortage	$\Delta$ Shortage x Elec Int	$\Delta$ Shortage x Self-Gen
$\Delta$ Hydro	-0.100 (0.036)**	-0.091 (0.023)***	-0.098 (0.016)***	-0.064 (0.015)***	0.021 (0.005)***	-0.003 (0.002)**
$\Delta$ Rainfall			-0.002 (0.005)			
$\Delta$ Cooling Degrees			0.001 (0.002)			
$\Delta$ Hydro x Elec Intensive				0.010 (0.005)**	-0.095 (0.016)***	0.008 (0.003)**
$\Delta$ Hydro x Self-Generator				-0.077 (0.015)***	-0.037 (0.008)***	-0.136 (0.019)***
Number of Obs.	374,158	229,177	370,168	374,158	374,158	374,158
Number of Clusters	30	494	3,179	3,262	3,262	3,262
A-P F-Stat	7.52	15.52	36.5	51.21	37.63	51.21

Notes: This table presents the first stage estimates for alternative specifications with potentially weakest first stage identification, using the sample with  $\ln(\text{Revenue})$  as the outcome variable. Column 1 clusters by state instead of state-by-year difference. All other columns cluster by state-by-year difference. Column 2 includes one-year differences only. Column 3 controls for rainfall and cooling degrees. Columns 4-6 are the three first stages for Table 9. Samples for columns 1, 2, and 3 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity. F-statistic is for the heteroskedasticity and cluster-robust Angrist-Pischke weak instruments test. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

**B.3 Robustness Checks for Table 8****Table A6: Robustness Check: Weighting by ASI Sample Weights***Panel A: Difference Estimator*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.228 (0.022)***	-0.083 (0.065)	0.039 (0.052)	0.083 (0.032)***
Number of Obs.	172,396	220,701	374,283	366,446
Number of Clusters	2,781	2,936	3,262	3,261

*Panel B: Instrumental Variables*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.555 (0.099)***	1.041 (0.293)***	-1.249 (0.410)***	0.258 (0.203)
Number of Obs.	172,396	220,701	374,283	366,446
Number of Clusters	2,781	2,936	3,262	3,261

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (22), weighting by ASI sample weights. Panel B instruments for Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Samples for columns 1 and 2 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity. Robust standard errors, clustered by state-by-year difference. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

Table A7: **Robustness Check: Omitting Industry-by-Year Controls**  
*Panel A: Difference Estimator*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.229 (0.024)***	-0.016 (0.059)	0.037 (0.041)	0.080 (0.035)**
Number of Obs.	172,396	220,701	374,283	366,446
Number of Clusters	2,781	2,936	3,262	3,261

*Panel B: Instrumental Variables*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.581 (0.109)***	0.773 (0.248)***	-0.813 (0.345)**	-0.111 (0.158)
Number of Obs.	172,396	220,701	374,283	366,446
Number of Clusters	2,781	2,936	3,262	3,261

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (22), omitting the industry-by-year controls  $\mu_{jt}$ . Panel B instruments for Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Samples for columns 1 and 2 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity. Robust standard errors, clustered by state-by-year difference. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

Table A8: **Robustness Check: Stricter Tolerance for Eliminating Within-Plant Outliers**  
*Panel A: Difference Estimator*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.201 (0.022)***	-0.036 (0.054)	0.007 (0.036)	0.130 (0.025)***
Number of Obs.	153,830	197,188	362,359	359,800
Number of Clusters	2,726	2,860	3,236	3,249

*Panel B: Instrumental Variables*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.530 (0.097)***	0.613 (0.216)***	-0.497 (0.279)*	0.050 (0.126)
Number of Obs.	153,830	197,188	362,359	359,800
Number of Clusters	2,726	2,860	3,236	3,249

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (22), using a within-plant outlier tolerance of 1.5 natural logs instead of 3.5. Panel B instruments for Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Robust standard errors, clustered by state-by-year difference. Samples for columns 1 and 2 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

Table A9: **Robustness Check: Including All Within-Plant Outliers***Panel A: Difference Estimator*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.244 (0.023)***	0.009 (0.056)	0.062 (0.043)	0.064 (0.033)*
Number of Obs.	226,332	228,662	376,134	367,059
Number of Clusters	2,961	2,964	3,272	3,262

*Panel B: Instrumental Variables*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.605 (0.102)***	0.727 (0.243)***	-0.628 (0.379)*	0.213 (0.186)
Number of Obs.	226,332	228,662	376,134	367,059
Number of Clusters	2,961	2,964	3,272	3,262

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (22), without dropping any within-plant outliers. Panel B instruments for Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Samples for columns 1 and 2 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity. Robust standard errors, clustered by state-by-year difference. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

Table A10: **Robustness Check: One-Year Lags Only***Panel A: Difference Estimator*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.202 (0.037)***	0.084 (0.084)	-0.101 (0.059)*	0.028 (0.051)
Number of Obs.	124,861	152,795	229,303	225,149
Number of Clusters	491	491	494	494

*Panel B: Instrumental Variables*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.545 (0.187)***	0.264 (0.325)	-0.560 (0.385)	-0.058 (0.231)
Number of Obs.	124,861	152,795	229,303	225,149
Number of Clusters	491	491	494	494

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (22), using the sample of one-year differences only. Panel B instruments for Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Samples for columns 1 and 2 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity. Robust standard errors, clustered by state-by-year difference. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.



Table A11: **Robustness Check: Clustering by State***Panel A: Difference Estimator*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.227 (0.029)***	-0.037 (0.078)	0.022 (0.079)	0.091 (0.048)*
Number of Obs.	172,396	220,701	374,283	366,446
Number of Clusters	30	30	30	30

*Panel B: Instrumental Variables*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.571 (0.112)***	0.633 (0.274)**	-0.680 (0.297)**	0.034 (0.250)
Number of Obs.	172,396	220,701	374,283	366,446
Number of Clusters	30	30	30	30

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (22), clustering by state instead of state-by-year difference. Panel B instruments for Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Samples for columns 1 and 2 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity. Robust standard errors. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

Table A12: **Robustness Check: Controlling for Rainfall and Cooling Degrees**  
*Panel A: Difference Estimator*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.229 (0.023)***	-0.033 (0.055)	0.023 (0.040)	0.092 (0.029)***
$\Delta$ Rainfall	0.003 (0.003)	-0.016 (0.009)*	0.008 (0.008)	0.006 (0.005)
$\Delta$ Cooling Degrees	0.001 (0.001)	-0.005 (0.004)	-0.001 (0.003)	0.001 (0.002)
Number of Obs.	170,435	218,109	370,293	362,537
Number of Clusters	2,719	2,865	3,179	3,179

*Panel B: Instrumental Variables*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.586 (0.110)***	0.675 (0.249)***	-0.651 (0.341)*	0.082 (0.148)
$\Delta$ Rainfall	0.008 (0.004)*	-0.007 (0.010)	0.004 (0.009)	0.006 (0.006)
$\Delta$ Cooling Degrees	0.001 (0.001)	-0.007 (0.004)*	0.000 (0.003)	0.001 (0.002)
Number of Obs.	170,435	218,109	370,293	362,537
Number of Clusters	2,719	2,865	3,179	3,179

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (22), also including controls for rainfall and cooling degrees. Panel B instruments for Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Samples for columns 1 and 2 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity. Robust standard errors, clustered by state-by-year difference. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

Table A13: **Robustness Check: Using Peak Shortage Instead of Average Shortage**  
*Panel A: Difference Estimator*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Peak Shortage	0.064 (0.013)***	-0.013 (0.030)	-0.016 (0.025)	0.018 (0.019)
Number of Obs.	172,396	220,701	374,283	366,446
Number of Clusters	2,781	2,936	3,262	3,261

*Panel B: Instrumental Variables*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Peak Shortage	0.821 (0.259)***	0.890 (0.375)**	-0.997 (0.545)*	0.049 (0.206)
Number of Obs.	172,396	220,701	374,283	366,446
Number of Clusters	2,781	2,936	3,262	3,261

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (22), using the CEA Peak Shortage estimate instead of (average) Shortage. Panel B instruments for Peak Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Samples for columns 1 and 2 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity. Robust standard errors, clustered by state-by-year difference. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

**B.3.1 Estimates with Alternative TFPR Measures****Table A14: Robustness Check: Estimates with Alternative TFPR Measures***Panel A: Difference Estimator*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Perfect Comp. ( $\epsilon = -\infty$ )	$\epsilon = -4$	Materials+ Non-Elec Fuels	No Year Controls	Include Self- Generators
$\Delta$ Shortage	0.095 (0.032)***	0.277 (0.049)***	0.091 (0.030)***	0.086 (0.027)***	0.092 (0.026)***
Number of Obs.	365,844	365,147	339,061	366,217	366,295
Number of Clusters	3,260	3,260	2,950	3,261	3,261

*Panel B: Instrumental Variables*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Perfect Comp. ( $\epsilon = -\infty$ )	$\epsilon = -4$	Materials+ Non-Elec Fuels	No Year Controls	Include Self- Generators
$\Delta$ Shortage	-0.043 (0.191)	0.086 (0.243)	-0.059 (0.150)	-0.316 (0.176)*	-0.229 (0.163)
Number of Obs.	365,844	365,147	339,061	366,217	366,295
Number of Clusters	3,260	3,260	2,950	3,261	3,261

Notes: This table presents estimates of Equation (22), using alternative measures of TFPR described in Appendix A.2.2. Panel B instruments for Peak Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Robust standard errors, clustered by state-by-year difference. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

**B.3.2 Separate Results for Self-Generators and Non-Generators**Table A15: **Separate Results for Self-Generators and Non-Generators**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	ln(Revenue)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)	ln(TFPR)
$\Delta$ Shortage	-0.237 (0.292)	-2.833 (1.040)***	0.020 (0.136)	-0.143 (0.373)
Number of Obs.	234,387	139,896	230,452	135,994
Number of Clusters	2,976	3,089	2,971	3,087
Self-Generators	Yes	No	Yes	No

Notes: This table presents estimates of 22, splitting the sample by self-generators versus plants that never self-generate. Panel B instruments for Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Samples for columns 1 and 2 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity. Robust standard errors, clustered by state-by-year difference. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

## B.4 Fixed Effects Estimates

Table A16: **Fixed Effects Estimates with ASI Data**

*Panel A: Fixed Effects*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
Shortage	0.273 (0.042)***	-0.106 (0.097)	0.077 (0.078)	0.134 (0.031)***
Number of Obs.	276,590	312,766	609,257	600,777
Number of Clusters	30	30	30	30

*Panel B: Fixed Effects with Instrumental Variables*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Outcome Variable:	Self-Gen Share	ln(Energy Rev Share)	ln(Revenue)	ln(TFPR)
Shortage	0.763 (0.238)***	0.659 (0.346)*	-0.611 (0.355)*	-0.180 (0.227)
Number of Obs.	240,874	284,516	501,664	494,356
Number of Clusters	30	30	30	30

This table presents estimates of Equation (22) using fixed effects instead of differences, also including state-specific linear trends. Panel B instruments for Peak Shortage using the hydroelectric generation instrument. Samples for columns 1 and 2 are limited to plants that ever self-generate electricity. Robust standard errors, clustered by state. \*, \*\*, \*\*\*: Statistically different from zero with 90, 95, and 99 percent confidence, respectively.

## B.5 Additional Simulation Tables

Table A17: **Calibration Parameters**

Parameter		Source
Production Function Coefficients	$\beta_m, \beta_l$	Estimated from ASI data
	$\beta_k$	Constant returns to scale assumption
	$\gamma$	Estimated from ASI data
Elasticity of Demand	$\epsilon = -10$	Ten percent markup assumption
Price of Grid Power	$p^{E,G} = 4.5$ Rs/kWh	World Bank Enterprise Survey
Price of Self-Generated Power	$p^{E,S} = 7$ Rs/kWh	World Bank Enterprise Survey
Shortages	$\delta$	Data from Central Electricity Authority
Generator Fixed Cost	1374 Rs/KW-year	Discussions with Indian generator vendors

Notes: This table details the parameters used for the simulations in Section 7.

Table A18: **Predicted Losses from Electricity Shortages: Robustness**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Baseline $\epsilon = -10$	Low Elasticity $\epsilon = -4$	High Elasticity $\epsilon = -20$	Expensive Self-Generation $p^{E,S} = 4p^{E,G}$
<u>Revenue Loss</u>				
Average	4.6%	4.0%	5.1%	5.5%
Generators	0.5%	0.2%	0.7%	2.1%
Non-Generators	9.7%	8.5%	10.6%	9.7%
<u>TFPR Loss</u>				
Average	1.6%	2.3%	1.2%	1.7%
Generators	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%
Non-Generators	3.4%	4.9%	2.6%	3.4%
<u>Input Cost Increase</u>				
Generators	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	2.8%
<u>Profit Loss</u>				
Average	5.7%	4.8%	6.5%	6.8%
Generators	0.6%	0.3%	0.8%	2.7%
Non-Generators	11.2%	10.2%	13.5%	11.9%
<u>Endogenous Generator Simulation</u>				
Generator Takeup Rate	72%	81%	68%	66%

Notes: Predictions for plants in the 2005 ASI using the model described in text with exogenous generators. Average refers to the average weighted by plant output. TFPR is defined as the residual of the revenue generating production function using the approach described in Section 3. Input Cost Increase reported as a share of revenues. Elasticity refers to the elasticity of the CES Demand Curve. Column 4 sets the price of self-generated power  $p^{E,S}$  to 18 Rupees per kWh instead of 7 rupees per kWh.



Table A19: **Differential Effects of Shortages**

	Plant Size		Electric Intensity	
	Large	Small	High	Low
Revenue Loss	2.2%	5.6%	4.4%	4.7%
TFPR Loss	1.8%	0.8%	1.4%	1.8%
Profit Loss from Shortages	2.8%	6.8%	5.4%	5.8%
Profit Gain from Generator	5.1%	4.9%	4.7%	5.3%
Generator Take-Up Rate	82%	72%	62%	94%

Notes: This table presents results of the exogenous generator simulation for different subgroups of plants. Large vs. Small plants are defined as having more vs. less than 100 employees. High vs. Low electric intensity is defined as belonging to industries that are above vs. below the median electricity revenue share.

## B.6 Other Tables

Table A20: **Biggest Obstacle for Growth**

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Electricity	33
High Taxes	16
Corruption	10
Tax Administration	8
Cost of and Access to Financing	6
Labor Regulations and Business Licensing	5
Skills and Education of Available Workers	4
Access to Land	3
Customs and Trade Regulations	2
Other	12

Notes: These data are from the 2005 World Bank Enterprise Survey in India. The table presents responses to the question, “Which of the elements of the business environment included in the list, if any, currently represents the biggest obstacle faced by this establishment?”

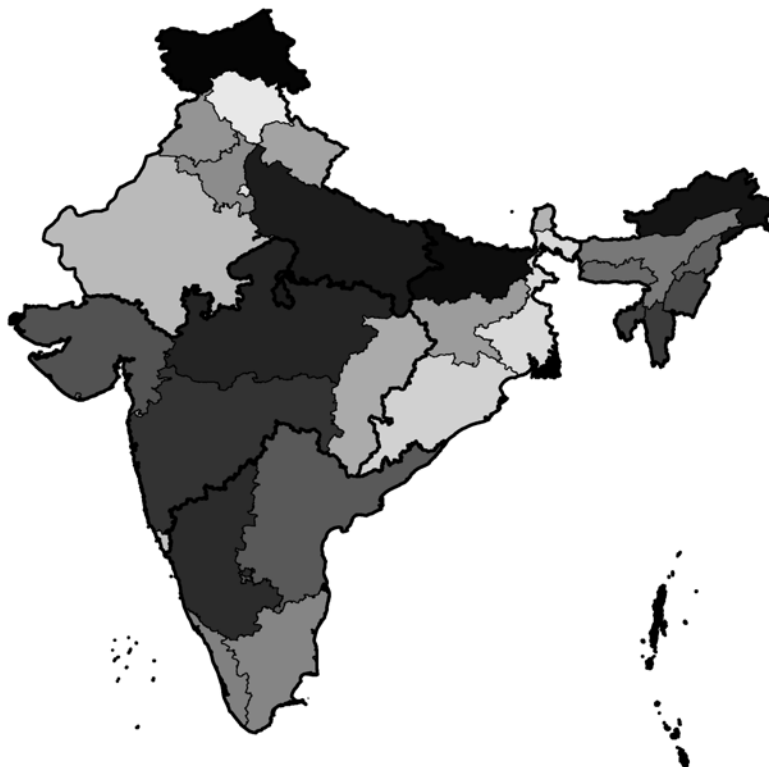
Table A21: **Determination of Base Sample**

<b>Step</b>	<b>Dropped Obs.</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>
Original ASI dataset		949,992
Closed plants	172,697	777,295
Missing state codes or in Sikkim	99	777,196
Non-manufacturing NIC codes	45,664	731,532
Exact duplicates	312	731,220
Missing revenues	102,036	629,184
Multiple input revenue share outliers	9,095	620,089
Productivity outliers	3,960	616,129
Total observations		616,129

Notes: This table details how the sample in Table 6 is determined from the original set of observations in the Annual Survey of Industries.

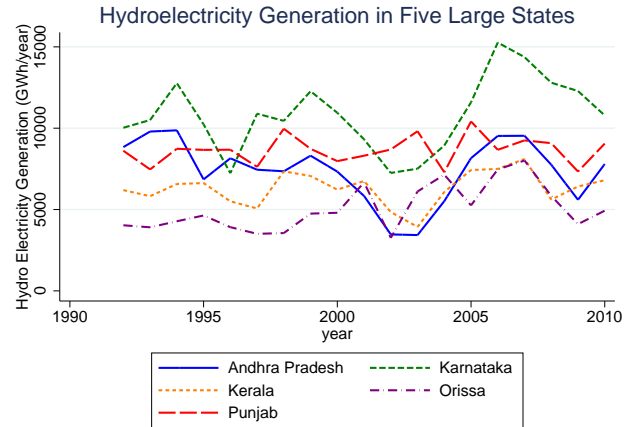
## C Appendix: Additional Figures

Figure A1: Map of Average Shortages by State



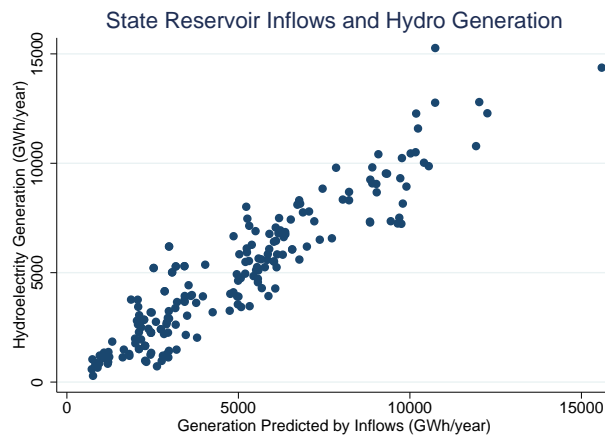
Notes: This figure compares the average of shortages estimated by the Central Electricity Authority to the 2010 per capita GDP, for all states and Union Territories.

Figure A2: **Hydroelectricity Generation Over Time**



Notes: This figure presents hydroelectric generation over the study period for five large states that are relatively reliant on hydro.

Figure A3: **Correlation Between Reservoir Inflows and Hydro Production**



Notes: This is a scatterplot of hydroelectricity generation against the generation predicted using state-specific regressions of hydro generation on reservoir inflows. State-specific regressions are important because the slope of the relationship between reported reservoir inflows and total hydro generation differs substantially by state. One major reason for this is that inflows are only reported for some reservoirs but are correlated across reservoirs within a state. Thus, a state with more un-reported reservoirs will have a more steeply-sloped relationship between reported inflows and total hydro generation.