

9 JUN 2016

Support for rooftop solar projects

The government has lined up nearly Rs 16,800 crore for providing low cost finance to achieve the target of installing 40 GW grid-connected solar rooftop systems

Government is in negotiations with the KfW Development Bank to secure soft loans of one billion euro. They have already provided \$100 million funding. These are some of the initiatives which government is offering to encourage the use of solar energy and the same was reiterated in 7th National Workshop on Roof Top Solar (RTS) Power. While interacting with media, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) Secretary Upendra Tripathy said that these rooftop projects transforms homes into investment and empowers owner with loss free electricity. The Secretary appealed for mass involvement through media and said that people participation will become key for solar revolution in the country.

Government of India has taken an ambitious target of 40,000 MW of Roof Top Solar (RTS) power as part of Clean Climate commitments. To achieve this target, the Central/State/UT Governments and Central/State Electricity Regulatory Commissions

have undertaken several initiatives and promotional measures. Some of the key initiatives/promotional measures are:

- Financial subsidy of 30% of project/bench mark cost for RTS projects in Residential/Institutional/Social sectors.
- Financial incentive upto 25% of project/bench mark cost for RTS projects in Government/PSU sector.
- Notification of Gross/Net metering policies by various States/UT Regulatory Commissions.
- Financial support to RTS projects by various State/UT Governments.
- Development of easy to access Online Portals by Distribution Companies (DISCOMS) for installation of RTS plants.
- Empanelment of agencies with proven capacity and expertise for installation of solar panels, inverters, meters, etc. by various State/UT Governments.
- Empanelment of Channel Partners by Central/State governments.
- Assessment of RTS potential and undertaking bidding process for cost efficient solar installations



in various sectors.

The power generated from solar rooftop plants installed even today is almost at par with the commercial tariff for consumers in many states. The cost of solar power is declining, while that of electricity from fossil fuels is rising. National Workshop on Roof Top Solar had presentations and discussions on various topics including best practices, innovative projects and major policy initiatives on projects. Besides senior government officials from the centre and states, the conference also saw participation from solar power project developers, channel partners as well as international agencies such as GIZ, KfW and USAID.

Just login:

Government has put in place a centralised facility which will enable consumers to apply online for installation of solar rooftops on their premises. "We have provided for an online facility where consumers can apply for solar rooftops based on requirements and space available with them," a senior official said. "The consumers, including individuals, commercial, industrial or public institutions, can apply online. After that, service providers will approach to provide services." Given lack of clarity on how to go about installation of solar rooftops, many consumers have shown little interest. The official said, "In order to bridge this communication gap between the consumer and service providers, this centralised facility has been provided."

Electricity conundrum

Lots of cheap electricity, few takers, large power cuts

Power minister Piyush Goyal's regular afternoon tweets on power being available in the country's power exchanges at reasonable rates of around ₹2.5 per unit come as more than a bit of a surprise considering the long power cuts in most areas of the country every day. While it is true the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) took everyone by surprise when it said that India would be power surplus in FY17 with a peak surplus of 3.1%—the east, north-east and north, though, have a deficit—what is not clear is whether Goyal's tweets imply India has licked its power problem or whether they are symptomatic of a deeper malaise. As *FE* reported on Wednesday, with an average of 1,621 million units of power available on the spot market every month, this can more than cover the deficit of most of the big states. Uttar Pradesh, which has the largest deficit of 846 million units per month just buys 22 million units per month. Karnataka, with a 239 million unit shortage purchases a mere 5 million units; Rajasthan with a 27 million unit shortage buys just 3 million units. It is only Bihar which has a shortage of 21 million units that buys 309 million units from various power exchanges.

While the improved coal situation—local production, which is far cheaper than imports, was up 42 million tonnes, to 536 million tonnes in FY16—has played a big role in electricity availability rising, the collapse of industrial demand is probably a bigger factor. The larger reason, though, is a near complete mismatch between demand and supply creation. Buoyed by the growth of earlier years, generating capacity has increased 105% between FY09 and FY16 while demand has risen just 39%—to that extent, even increased industrial demand may not reverse the power surplus situation, more so if there is more gas available for power plants; indeed, the reason why spot power is priced so low is that generating firms are desperate to sell so that at least part of the capex can be amortised.

Despite this, the main reason why state electricity boards (SEBs) do not buy much spot electricity is that it is just not viable to do so. For one, most have expensive PPAs already tied up, so the actual cost of buying spot power is not the ₹2.3-2.5 that Goyal tweets about, but has to include the capital charge that will have to be paid to generating companies being asked to back down. In many areas, there is a shortage of adequate transmission and distribution capacity, so while it is profitable to buy spot power and supply it to customers, the grid simply cannot handle it—this is where Goyal's Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana and Integrated Power Development scheme comes in, but it will take at least a few years for it to be fully rolled out. While the UDAY scheme has played a big role in reducing SEB debt, in cases like Uttar Pradesh, there are still huge outstandings to suppliers which makes further borrowing to buy spot power difficult. By far the biggest reason, though, is that with 40-50% power theft levels, the real cost of the spot power works out to around ₹5 per unit, a rate which is much higher than that paid for by a very large proportion of customers—in which case, SEBs are being rational in preferring to restrict supplies instead of just generating more losses. Piyush Goyal would do well not to declare victory till UDAY actually fixes these issues—right now, the only progress to report is that banks have been arm-twisted into taking a 5-6 percentage point hit on SEB loans.

BHEL Setting a new benchmark in project commissioning, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has commissioned all the 3 supercritical units of 660 MW each at the 1980 MW coal-based Lalitpur Super Thermal Power Project in Uttar Pradesh within a span of just 85 days. This has been achieved as a result of enhanced focus on project execution by way of innovative erection techniques and meticulous project management. Located in Lalitpur in Bundelkhand district of Uttar Pradesh, the 3x660 MW Lalitpur STPP has been developed by Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited, promoted by the Bajaj Hindusthan group. The main plant package contract of this 1980 MW power plant is being executed by BHEL.

BUSINESS STANDARD

9 JUN 2016

Power minister estimates 1.1% energy surplus in FY17

SANJAY JOG
Mumbai, 8 June



The power ministry has finalised a generation target of 1,178 billion units (BU) for 2016-17, against 1,137.5 BU in 2015-16.

The ministry has also projected energy surplus of 1.1 per cent and peak surplus of 3.1 per cent during FY17, compared with energy shortage of 2.1 per cent and peak shortage of 2.6 per cent last year.

Of the current year's target, 999 BU was estimated

to be generated through thermal power, 134 BU from hydro, 40 BU from nuclear and 5 BU imported from Bhutan.

The power ministry has firmed up these estimates based on month-wise anticipated energy requirement and availability as well as

peak demand, especially in the wake of increase in generation thanks to capacity addition, coal supply and transmission network.

The ministry had estimated a generating capacity addition of 16,654.5 Mw in 2016-17 compared to 17,346 Mw a year ago.

BHEL scores hat-trick in Uttar Pradesh

Setting a new benchmark in project commissioning, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has commissioned all the 3 supercritical units of 660 MW each at the 1980 MW coal-based Lalitpur Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) in Uttar Pradesh within a span of just 85 days. This has been achieved as a result of enhanced focus on project execution by way of innovative erection techniques and meticulous project management. Located in Lalitpur in Bundelkhand district of Uttar Pradesh, the 3x660 MW Lalitpur STPP has been developed by Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited, promoted by the Bajaj Hindusthan group. The main plant package contract of this 1980 MW power plant is being executed by BHEL.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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DERC plans cell for penalty check

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Over a week after the government announced that the penalty clause for compensation to consumers suffering due to unscheduled outages was in effect, Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission said it would set up a cell under the ombudsman to monitor whether compensations were being paid. Officials admitted that implementation would be tough in initial months.

"We also have other ideas in mind to ensure that the penalty clause is implemented successfully. Right now, we are taking daily data from the discom call centres to see how many complaints are lodged, how long it takes to resolve them and whether the complainants are satisfied. We have also asked the dis-

cos to make this data available online," said secretary (power) Sukesh Jain.

The ombudsman will get reports on a weekly or fortnightly basis to see how many people are given compensation and how long the discoms are taking to fix the problems.

"The ombudsman will also assess if complaints are not addressed and the reasons behind it. The cell will be set up in a week to 10 days. Till then, any dissatisfied consumer can file a complaint with the public grievance cell," said a senior DERC official.

While all three power companies, BSES Rajdhani and Yamuna, and Tata Power Delhi, declined to comment, discom sources said the utilities would move court as the diktat was unfeasible and illegal.

HINDU

9 JUN 2016

BEL plans 150 MW solar plant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU: Defence manufacturer Bharat Electronics Ltd is initiating a Rs. 600-crore, 150-MW solar power plant with other defence public sector units for joint consumption, BEL's Chairman & Managing Director S.K.Sharma said on Wednesday.

The plan and investment

are being discussed with other PSUs.

About 80-90 per cent of its own needs can be met this way at BEL's Bengaluru units at a lower cost, Mr. Sharma said at the company's annual news conference here.

Non-defence products

Solar cells and modules form some of its significant non-defence products and

are a focus area of its business. Having wheeled 80 lakh units from its 5.5-mw wind energy plants last fiscal, BEL expects to more than double this with the new 8.4-mW plant. BEL and its two subsidiaries ended 2015-16 with a turnover of Rs. 8,092 crore, 6.4 per cent up from the previous year. Net profit was almost 16 per cent higher at Rs. 1,387 crore.

MINT

9 JUN 2016

India eyes 10 GW geothermal power

New Delhi: In its quest to increase its renewable energy portfolio, India proposes to harness 10,000 MW of geothermal energy by 2030 through active international collaboration with countries such as the US, Philippines, Mexico and New Zealand.

The ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) on 6 June released a "draft Indian geothermal energy development framework" seeking comments from all stakeholders by 10 June. "The geothermal policy envisages to make a substantial contribution to India's long-term energy supply and reduce our national greenhouse gas emissions by developing a sustainable, safe, secure, socially and environmentally responsible geothermal energy industry, apart from creating new employment opportunities and leading to environmentally sustainable development by the means of deployment of 1,000 MW geothermal energy capacity in the initial phase till 2022 and 10,000 MW by 2030," said the draft policy. **MAYANK AGGARWAL**

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