

# TECA – NEWS CLIPPING

(Energy Conservation : It Doesn't Cost. It saves)

27.02.2016

தமிழ்நாடு மின்சார ஒழுங்கு முறை ஆணையத்தின் உறுப்பினராக பிரபாகராவ்  
நியமனம்

தினத்தந்தி ; பெப்ரவரி 25,2016



தமிழ்நாடு அரசிதழில் வெளியிடப்பட்ட, எரிசக்தி துறையின் (கூடுதல் பொறுப்பு) கூடுதல் தலைமை செயலாளர் என்.எஸ்.பழனியப்பனின் உத்தரவில் கூறப்பட்டு இருப்பதாவது;- தமிழ்நாடு மின்சார ஒழுங்குமுறை ஆணையத்தின் உறுப்பினராக, ஓய்வு பெற்ற ஐ.ஏ.எஸ். அதிகாரி டி.பிரபாகராவை நியமித்து தமிழக கவர்னர் உத்தரவிட்டுள்ளார். தேர்வுக்குழுவின் பரிந்துரையின் அடிப்படையில் இந்த உத்தரவு பிறப்பிக்கப்படுகிறது. இவ்வாறு அதில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

## Tami Nadu power demand raises to 14,500 mw

Deccan Chronicle: February 27, 2016

Days after Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) met a landmark peak power of 14,000 mw, the TN's energy demand peaked once again to touch 14,500 mw with ever increasing industrial consumption and soaring temperature.

According to Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation data, the TN has met an all time peak power demand of 14,538 mw on Feb. 24 breaking previous record of 14,079 mw recorded on Feb. 19. The daily energy consumption has also touched an all time high of 305.467 million units on Thursday. When the restriction and control measures were in place last year, power demand was hovering around 12,000 mw to 13,000 mw.

With the lifting of the 90 per cent power cut on peak power demand of high-tension industrial and commercial consumers, the peak demand has gone up by 1500 mw to 14,500 mw this year due to increased industrial consumption, a senior Tangedco official said, adding that air conditioner load also increased due to the soaring temperature.

The official said that all the R and C measures were lifted in the state since June 5 last year with capacity addition of new thermal power plants and long-term power purchase. "Due to capacity addition of thermal power units, we are able to meet the demand of over 14,500 mw before the commencement of peak wind power season. Normally, the state will remain power surplus during the wind season," the official said.

With the power demand soaring to record high, Tangedco officials are predicting that the demand in summer may cross 15,000 mw. "We will be able to meet the demand of 15,000 mw with available capacity," the official said. At present, the agricultural pumpsets are consuming about 500 mw to 600 mw a day with 20 hours of power supply.

"The agricultural power demand will come down once the ground water starts depleting. We will be able to meet the growing industrial and domestic power supply in summer months from the offset of power demand from agricultural operation," the official explained.

### Tangedco hopeful of adding 1,250 MW of solar power

The Hindu: February 27, 2016

## THE BIG PLAYERS

<p><b>Small players with capacity ranging from 5 MW to 50 MW are expected to complete their projects</b></p>		
	<p><b>Adani</b>  <b>648</b> MW-          (72 MW          commissioned)</p>	<p><b>Welspun</b>          2x100 MW =  <b>200</b> MW          (Tiruchi, Karur)</p>
	<p><b>SunEdison 3x50 MW</b>  <b>150</b> MW (100 MW          commissioned) Virudhunagar</p>	
<p><b>The total connected load of solar power in the State at present stands at 250 MW.</b>          — PHOTO: S. JAMES</p>		

Despite the unveiling of the Solar Energy Policy in 2012 that set a target of generating 3,000 mega watt (MW) of clean energy at a competitive rate of Rs. 7.01 per unit, generation in the State failed to take off in a big way. However, the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) is hopeful of adding 1,250 MW of solar power by the end of this year, taking the total solar energy to 1,500 MW.

A senior Tangedco official said currently the total connected load of solar power in the State stood at only 250 MW, comprising small players having a maximum capacity of 30-40 MW. But the coming year would see capacity addition to the tune of 1,250 MW. Apart from big players like Adani, SunEdison and Welspun, small players with capacity ranging from 5 MW to 50 MW are also expected to complete their projects.



The official said of the 1,250 MW, three projects would account for the lion's share of almost 1,000 MW.

The three big projects are: the 648-MW Adani plant at Kamudhi in Ramanathapuram district, Welspun's 200 MW (100 MW x 2) plants in Tiruchi and Karur districts, and SunEdison's 150 MW project comprising three 50 MW plants in Virudhunagar district. However, power managers are pessimistic about any new projects taking off in the future in the event of Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) adopting a tariff of Rs. 5.0132 per unit from March 31. Even the ongoing projects for which agreements were signed with Tangedco at the TNERC fixed rate of Rs. 7.01 are expected to be delayed.

A senior official of Tangedco giving an update on the status of the project said SunEdison has commissioned 100 MW against the planned 150 MW and Adani has commissioned 72 MW until the first week of February.

A senior official of Tamilnadu Transmission Corporation (Tantransco) said the 400 kilo volt (KV) transmission line work for evacuating solar power from Kamudhi is progressing well and is expected to be completed by March-end.

The official also said a green corridor of 400 KV capacity funded by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is being executed in the Western Ghats through Thapukkundu, Anikkadavu, Rasipalayam and Palavadi.

### **Economic Survey 2016: Simplify power tariff structure with two-three categories**

**The Economic Times: February 27, 2016**

India's power sector needs a simple tariff structure that charges more from rich people, offers lower tariff to the poor and gives industrial units the freedom to choose the power supplier instead of being forced to buy low-quality, costly power from a specified company.

The Economic Survey, tabled in Parliament on Friday, suggested some relief to industrial units as high-cost, low-quality power supply is rendering them uncompetitive and hurting the government's 'Make in India' campaign although experts said the proposed changes were difficult to implement.

It said regulators should undertake broad welfare analysis while deciding on the tariff schedules and cross-subsidisation rate for different categories. Increase in tariffs for rich households can be achieved while maintaining or reducing tariffs for the poor, it added.

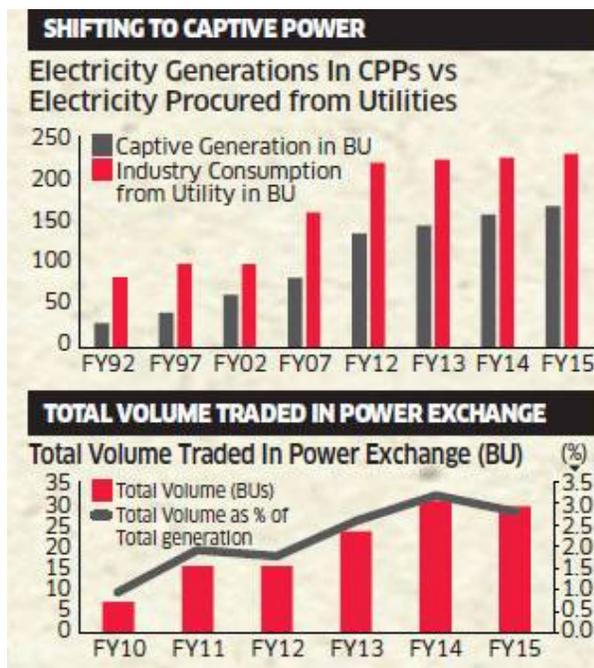
It also said that time is ripe to allow industries with higher power demand to absorb the excess power generation capacity by allowing open access — a reform announced in the Electricity Act 2003 enabling buyers to choose the source of electricity and giving them the right on transmission and distribution system for transfer of power.

India has power plants with capacity to generate 288,000 MW but they are operating at 63% of their capacity due to lack of demand from power distribution utilities and economic slowdown.

Pramod Deo, former chairperson of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, said implementing open access and eliminating cross-subsidies was easier said than done. "It is a political issue and a systematic problem. Open access cannot be implemented until the industrial consumers stop cross-subsidising. But if they do not cross-subsidise, who else will?" he said.

PwC leader (energy) Kameswara Rao said there is a serious case for reform of power tariffs. "The prevailing regulations use cross-subsidy, which is very inefficient as all consumers except the very large benefit from varying amounts of subsidy. There is a clear need, also

proposed in the recent Tariff Policy, for power tariffs to be cost-reflective with power subsidies targeted through direct transfers," he said.



Electricity prices for Indian industries are the highest in the world as states offer subsidised power to agricultural and residential consumers. The states also levy huge charges on spot market power purchase by their industrial consumers to deter them from purchasing electricity from anywhere else than discoms.

The Survey said cross-subsidy surcharges and non-price regulatory measures are key tools for balancing concerns of discoms, but they hinder creation of a nationwide electricity market.

"Simplification of tariffs with, perhaps no more than 2-3 tariff categories, will improve transparency and may well yield consumption and collection efficiency, along with governance benefits. The basis for such fine and numerous distinctions across end users is not immediately apparent. After all, energy products are characterised by a single price (or at most a few prices) across end users," it said.

The Survey lauded the debt recast scheme launched by the government for reviving distribution companies and efforts to generate 175 GW renewable energy by 2022.

### Every Discom will be making profit by 2019: Shri Piyush Goyal

Press Information Bureau : February 24, 2016

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy said "I am confident that before 2019, every Discom in this country will be making profit." While speaking at The Power Focus Summit 2016, here, Shri Goyal said that as far as Discoms are concerned, my bigger thrust is on operational efficiency rather than financial profits; because I believe that we cannot burden people of India with tariff increases indiscriminately.

Giving status update of ongoing rural electrification programme , Shri Piyush Goyal informed, "The figure, as we speak, of villages that have already being electrified, as of today, is 5,542 villages, that's one-third of the total. There are another 1,390 villages,



where electrification work is done, they are under energization". The Minister further added that the village electrification target for 2015-16 was 2,800 villages, which the Ministry has resettled to 5,800 after the Prime Minister's announcement on Independence Day, to electrify remaining 18,452 un-electrified villages within 1000 days. Shri Goyal further stated that officials have themselves fixed their target to electrify 7,000 villages by March end. I'm sure that we would be able to achieve this target , Shri Goyal added.

Referring to the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana ( UDAY) , Shri Piyush Goyal said, "The agreements signed with the states specify the timelines and the reduction in losses to be achieved. The central government will monitor their work very religiously and those states that are sincere in serving their people will get full support of the central government, irrespective of political affiliations. I am sure more states including Kerala and Karnataka will join UDAY,"

### **Uday scheme to reboot coal demand in six months: Coal Secretary**

**Business Standard: February 24, 2016**

The power sector's demand for coal, which has been stagnated lately, is likely to go up in six months as states join a scheme aimed at de-stressing financially ailing power distribution firms, called Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojna or Uday. The reason, said Coal Secretary Anil Swarup, was that the scheme was lowering the debt burden on the power distribution sector, leading to increased competency.

When the burden dissipated, he said, demand for power would pick up and thermal power producers would start asking for more coal.

Uday was launched to rescue the state power distribution companies, which were under almost Rs 4.3 lakh crore of debt. The Centre had allowed state governments to take over the debt and issue bonds.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 6th Asian Mining Congress in Kolkata on Wednesday, Swarup said: "The demand should pick up and increase in the coming six months."

As on February 22, thermal power plants across India had an average coal stock of 36.04 million tonnes (mt), which can generate power for 24 days without replenishment. Coal stock a year ago was 19.49 mt, amounting to 12 days of production capacity.

From April-December last year, across India, 710,394.46 MW of power was generated from coal while it stood at 667,189.51 MW during April-December 2014.

Nevertheless, subdued power demand has resulted in the energy sector facing a critical moment besides coal stocks piling up in their warehouses.

The coal secretary ruled out the possibility of Coal India slowing down production as demand from the power sector becomes muted. "Fifteen months back, we had a scenario where there was an acute shortage of coal. But now it is abundant. I will be happy with a scenario where we can have abundant coal rather than a shortage."

Despite the use of solar energy picking up fast, India's dependency on thermal power will continue and demand for coal is expected to remain strong. "Solar energy will not be able to entirely fulfill the country's demand for power."

The government is also coming up with a policy in a month's time for those power companies who presently don't have existing coal linkages so that the fuel supply can be ensured.

***Save Energy. Save Money. Save the Planet***