

TECA – NEWS CLIPPING

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

27.04.2017

Vallur station stops supply of 1,000 MW to Tangedco

The Hindu : April 27, 2017

Despite Vallur power station cutting off 1,000 MW of power supply to Tamil Nadu, Tangedco officials said they would manage the peak summer demand without any issue due to the availability of short term power from private players as well as wind power. However, there were power blackouts in various parts of Chennai, including T.Nagar, Perambur, Nandanam, Kilpauk, Adyar and Anna Salai, among others. People protested in front of EB offices in north Chennai.

The Vallur power station (NTECL Vallur) in North Chennai, is the joint venture between Tangedco and NTPC. It has three units of 500 MW each. Tamil Nadu's share of power from the units is 1,065 MW.

On April 26, out of three units, two units were stopped owing to non-payment of dues. The third unit is operational to supply power to the beneficiary states that have not defaulted in making their payments, according to an NTPC official. According to NTPC, Tangedco has outstanding dues of ₹1,156 crore.

The cut down in supply comes in the busy summer season. Tamil Nadu is expected to have a demand of over 15,000 MW. On April 29, 2016, Tamil Nadu hit an all-time high peak demand of 15,343 MW. Excluding the Vallur supply, Tamil Nadu currently has a capacity of 17,039 MW, which includes power from own thermal stations, short term power purchases from private players and power exchanges, share of power from other central power generating units among others.

Ample power

Power sourced from private players and wind energy will help Tamil Nadu cope with demand despite the stoppage of supply from Vallur.



EXPECTED PEAK SUMMER DEMAND IN TN:	MORNING PEAK DEMAND ON APRIL 26:
15,000 MW	11,957 MW

- Share of T.N. from Vallur Power Station is 1065 MW, accounting for 7.1% of expected peak demand

- The main challenge would arise if there is maintenance shutdown of key units or inability to evacuate wind power

- Excluding Vallur, T.N. has power availability of 17,039 MW, which includes own thermal generation units, short-term power purchase from private producers and other Central power generating units

- In addition, it can source power from wind, which is currently at 2,000 MW

Major challenge

The major challenge would come if any of the key generating stations including Kudankulam is shut for maintenance or faces power outage.

“There won’t be any crisis because of Vallur. We have 3,000 MW of wind power available at price of ₹3.10 per unit. Short term power from private players is available in the range of ₹2.92- ₹3.95 per unit when compared to ₹5.35 per unit of power from Vallur,” said a Tangedco official.

He also denied that huge dues were pending.

A government statement said that there was an outstanding due over 60 days of ₹502 crore, out of which ₹200 crore has been paid. Tangedco and NTECL are jointly working on to resolve the issue.

Power infrastructure to get big push as demand skyrockets

The Hindu : April 24, 2017

The constant real estate development and creation of new industrial estates have created an ever-growing demand for electricity in the city. The peak demand for the city has touched around 3,100 mega watt (MW) and the maximum consumption per day now stands at 60.07 million units (MU).

The mismatch between the growth of the population and power infrastructure development presents a stark picture mainly on the outskirts of the city. The growth of towering flats and apartment complexes has marked a burgeoning rise in population, and vice versa. Problems such as low voltage, frequent tripping of transformers and snapping of the overhead cable network plague residents on the peripheries of the city are facing.

A senior official of the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) said that in a city whose power consumption is almost one-fifth of the total consumption of the state (300 MU), the electricity department has been regularly planning infrastructure development works. He said providing uninterrupted power supply requires infrastructure development on various fronts including construction of substations of different capacities, installing underground power lines, setting up new transformers and establishing pillar boxes.

Transmission infrastructure development

Substations	No. of ongoing projects	Total cost in ₹ cr.
400 KV	3	3,859
230 KV	5	991
110 KV	7	576
33 KV	4	109

- Porur is getting upgraded from 110 KV to 230 KV
- 13,810 distribution transformers being replaced with new automated 11-KV Ring Main Units (RMUs) at a cost of ₹1,819 crore
- 33,225 pillar boxes getting modernised at a cost of ₹389 crore
- 35,000 kms overhead networks converted to underground cable network for ₹2,567 crore



The official, providing details of the several works, said 19 new substations, installation of new power lines, upgradation of substations, replacement of distribution transformers with



Ring Main Units (RMUs), modernisation of pillar boxes and conversion of overhead power lines (both high tension and low tension) with underground electricity network has been planned. A Tangedco official in South Chennai said the commissioning of 400 KV in Ottiyambakkam near Siruseri would help in streamlining power supply for the information technology corridor. Transmission power lines are also getting a big push with work proceeding on installing high tension lines for a length of 117.82 kms being executed at a cost of ₹301.61 crore.

Also, transmission lines for linking 33 KV substations and 11 KV substations are going for a total length of almost 200 km. The work is being taken up at a cost of ₹109 crore.

A Tangedco official involved in installing underground cable laying work between Nandambakkam and Mugallivakkam to link up the Porur substation pointed out the cable laying work began a fortnight ago and is being carried out on the road margin of Mount-Poonamallee Road.

Apart from the mega infrastructure development work, Tangedco has taken up improvement work, replacement of 13,810 distribution transformers with new automated 11-KV RMUs at a cost of ₹1,819 crore, modernisation of 33,225 pillar boxes at a cost of ₹389 crore and conversion of 35,000 kms of existing over head lines into under ground cables network at a cost of ₹2,567 crores in the extended area of Chennai city.

Wind power sector ready to work with govt to realize targets: Sarvesh Kumar

Livemint: April 26, 2017

Chairman of Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturing Association Sarvesh Kumar talks about issues plaguing the wind power sector and the impact of GST

The wind power sector is ready to work with the government to realize the target of 175 GW renewable power, of which 60GW is wind power, by 2022, but first wants a proper regulatory framework in place. Sarvesh Kumar, chairman of the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturing Association (IWTMA), in an interview with *Mint*, discussed various issues plaguing the sector, including how goods and services tax (GST) rates could impact the wind sector and how offshore wind power projects could be a reality by 2020. Edited excerpts.

In January 2017, the Central government organized a national-level consultative meeting and there were talks about issues plaguing the wind sector such as people taking land and then sitting over it.

I don't think we are sitting over land at all. They (companies that have got projects) may be sitting on allotments not on lands. The suggestion was that if a company is not doing the project then the allotment should be cancelled so that it can be given to someone else. Today we are short of our targets. Perhaps, if we have to do 6,000MW a year, we may not have enough land for that. We have to rush, procure it and implement the project.

Do you want the government to come out with 4,000-5,000 MW wind power projects in one go rather than 1,000 MW tenders?

The government wants everything to be procured through competitive bidding. We are for it. We want electricity to be procured under competitive bidding. The government started with 1,000 MW—it was the first initiative. We said 1,000 MW is not enough. You come for 5,000-6,000 MW. You have given us a target to do 6,000 MW by 2022— which means there has to be capacity addition of 6,000-7,000 MW every year. Keeping that in mind, they should come with 5,000-6,000 MW competitive bidding. The industry is ready for those challenges. Whatever the tariff, we are ready to work with that.



What are the other challenges the sector is facing?

The challenge is power evacuation. Having a green energy corridor is a major challenge.

Do you see India achieving a target of 60 GW of wind power by 2022?

First of all the industry is ready... if we don't have the regulatory framework in place then obviously we may fall short of it. As of now, the target for the just finished financial year was 4,000 MW, and we have achieved 5,400 MW.

How far do you think India is from harnessing its offshore wind potential?

India has 7,500 km of coastline. But offshore has its own challenges. First of all, it has cost involvement... studies need to be done. But if you really see, the industry has the technology for offshore and there is no doubt about it. Most of the European companies are placed in India. They have already done a number of (offshore) projects in Europe. So as far as tech is concerned, we have that. The question comes about the time when the first project is going to be implemented. In my personal opinion, by 2020 we should be ready for offshore.

How do you see GST rates impacting the wind sector?

We have made a request to the ministry (of new and renewable energy). At the end of the day we don't want the end consumer to be burdened. We requested a zero GST rate, and if we get that then there's nothing like it. But if a 5% rate is levied, the industry will happily accept it. If 5% is there, tariff is likely to go down by 10-15 paise (per unit), but if the rate is 12%, it will go up 20-25 paise, and at 18%, it may go to 40-50 paise.

What do you want for the wind sector?

We would like to be given a platform to export as much as possible. In order to export we need lines of credit. The cost of shipping is very high. Thus if Europe can give the same product at the same price or a cheaper price, then one obviously won't get the benefit. As far as markets are concerned, Europe, US, South Africa and Latin America are good markets for us.

Maha govt mulls making public names of electricity thieves

India today: April 27, 2017

The Maharashtra government will consider the idea of making public the names of people, who indulge in electricity thefts, state Energy Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said here today.

Conceding that power thefts were taking place on a large scale in the distribution network of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd (MSEDCL), the minister said, "We will think about making public the names the persons involved in power thefts."

He added that due to the steps taken by the government, the percentage of power thefts has reduced.

"The government has taken several measures, due to which power thefts have come down to 18 per cent from 35 per cent. It will further reduce to 10 per cent within a year," Bawankule said.

The minister was speaking to reporters after his visit to the famous Saibaba temple here.

"Earlier, there were six dedicated police stations of MSEDCL that were authorised to handle cases of power thefts. But now, the government has given the authority to all the police stations across the state to register and probe the electricity theft cases," he said.

"Besides, the electricity distribution utility has installed power meters on the transformers so that it gets information about where the power thefts are taking place and based on that action is taken against the offenders," Bawankule added.

Talking about load shedding, the minister said, "Load shedding will be linked to the power supply and bill recovery in that particular area.

"For example, if the bill recovery in any particular area is only 70 per cent, it will face a four-hour power shutdown. Similarly, if it is 60 per cent, then load-shedding will be for eight hours. This will be done online," he said.

The MSEDCL has also developed a mobile app, through which people can inform about the power thefts happening anywhere. "People can even pay the electricity bills through it. They can upload a photo of their meter (showing the consumption of units), and accordingly, a bill will be generated," he said.

The minister also said that the work of laying underground electricity cables in Shirdi town would begin soon.

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