

TECA - NEWS CLIPPING

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

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அணு ஆற்றலால் நீண்ட கால மின் தேவை பூர்த்தியாகும்

கோவை • செப். 18-

“அணு ஆற்றல் மூலமே நீண்ட கால மின் தேவையை பூர்த்தி செய்ய முடியும்,” என, மகாராஷ்டிர மாநில மின் ஒழுங்குமுறை ஆணைய முன்னாள் தலைவர் ராஜா பேசினார்.

தமிழ்நாடு மின் நுகர்வோர் சங்கம் சார்பில், 18 வது பொதுக்குழு கூட்டம் கோவை அவிநாசி ரோடு ரெஸிடென்சி ஒட்டலில் நேற்று நடந்தது. மகாராஷ்டிரா மின் ஒழுங்குமுறை ஆணைய முன்னாள் தலைவர் ராஜா பேசியதாவது:

உற்பத்தியை விட தேவை அதிகளவில் உள்ளது. வளர்ந்து வரும் நாடுகளான இந்தியா, சீனா ஆகியவை மின் உற்பத்திக்கான இலக்குகளை நிர்ணயித்து உள்ளன. உலக வெப்பமயமாதல் குறித்த விழிப்புணர்வு

● மின் நுகர்வோர் சங்க கூட்டத்தில் தகவல்



தமிழ்நாடு மின் நுகர்வோர் சங்கம் சார்பில், 18 வது பொதுக்குழு கூட்டம் கோவை அவிநாசி ரோடு ரெஸிடென்சி ஒட்டலில் நேற்று நடந்தது. மகாராஷ்டிரா மாநிலத்தின் மின் ஒழுங்குமுறை ஆணைய முன்னாள் தலைவர் ராஜா பேசினார். அருகில், (இடமிருந்து) தமிழ்நாடு மின் நுகர்வோர் அமைப்பு துணைத்தலைவர் நாராயணசுவாமி, செயலாளர் இளங்கோ, தலைவர் தினகரன், இண்டியன் எனர்ஜி எக்ஸ்சேஞ்ச் நிறுவன துணைத்தலைவர் ரோகித் பஜாஜ் உள்ளிட்டோர்.

சமீபத்தில் தான் ஏற்பட்ட அனைத்தும் காப்பன்-டையாவதை தடுக்க முயன்று உள்ளது. உலக நாடுகள் ஆக்ஸைடு வாயு உற்பத்தி வருகின்றன. வரும்

2030 க்குள் இந்தியாவில் புதுப்பிக்கத்தக்க ஆற்றல்கள் மூலம் அதிகளவு மின் உற்பத்தி இருக்கும்.

இதற்கான நடைமுறைகள் சிறப்பான முறையில் மீட்டர்நிறுப்புகளில் காலநிலை மாறுபாடு மின் உற்பத்தியில் உள்ள மிகப்பெரிய சவால். வருங்காலத்தில் புதுப்பிக்கத்தக்க ஆற்றல்கள் மிகப்பெரிய இடத்தை பிடிக்கும். இதற்கான முயற்சிகள் இந்தியாவில் துவங்கி விட்டன.

இந்தியாவிலேயே தமிழகத்தில் தான் காற்றாலை மின் உற்பத்தி அதிகளவில் உள்ளது.

இதை மேலும் அதிகரிக்க வேண்டும். சூரிய ஆற்றல் மூலம் மின் உற்பத்தியை அதிகரிக்க திட்டமிட வேண்டும். கோவையிலுள்ள தொழில் நிறுவனங்கள் க்யமாக மின் உற்பத்தியை

துவங்க வேண்டும்.

கூட்டு குளத்தில் இரண்டாவது அலகில் விரைவில் மின் உற்பத்தி துவங்கும் என எதிர்பார்க்கப்படுகிறது. அனைத்து தொழில்நுட்பங்களிலும் சிக்கல்கள் இருக்கத்தான் செய்கிறது. அதற்காக தொழில்நுட்பங்களை நீக்கி விட முடியாது. அணு ஆற்றல் மூலமே நீண்ட கால மின் தேவையை பூர்த்தி செய்ய முடியும்.

இவ்வாறு, அவர் பேசினார்.

முன்னதாக, தமிழ்நாடு மின் நுகர்வோர் சங்க தலைவர் தினகரன் தலைமை வகித்தார். சங்கத்தின் துணை தலைவர் நாராயணசாமி, செயலாளர் இளங்கோ, இண்டியன் எனர்ஜி எக்ஸ்சேஞ்ச் நிறுவன துணை தலைவர் (தொழில் மேம்பாடு) ரோகித் பஜாஜ் உள்ளிட்ட பலர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

'Nuclear power will help India attain energy security'

Times of India: September 18, 2016

Developing nuclear energy sources is the only way to bring energy security in India, said the former chairman of Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC), V P Raja here on Saturday.

He also said with climate change being the most important global agenda, it is important for India to also increase its renewable energy generation capacity.

Raja was the chief guest at the 18th annual general body meeting of Tamil Nadu Electricity Consumers' Association on Saturday.

Speaking on the future of the power sector in India and Tamil Nadu, he emphasised on India's need to develop its nuclear power to become an energy secure country. India at the moment is entering into the second stage of the three-stage plan, designed by Homi Baba. "The second stage of the plan is to



use plutonium 239 generated out of the fission of uranium 235 as fuel. A 500MW reactor is being set up in Kalpakkam. If things go well we will be able to see power generation by the end of 2017 or early 2018," Raja said. "The plutonium 239 is coated with thorium and used for fission. So it produces uranium 233 which again is fissile. This uranium 233 is the file for the third stage of the nuclear plan," he added. Raja said that both India and Tamil Nadu have a major role to play in making India energy secure.

He said that there are some anti-nuclear elements in the country, but people should see countries like France that is 80% dependent on nuclear power and Japan that is 30% dependent. , and support setting up of infrastructure for nuclear power in India. "Japan, despite Horoshima and Nagasaki and Fukishima has gone back to utilize its nuclear plants. It is slowly restarting all plants after providing additional safety infrastructure," Raja said.

The former chairman of MERC also spoke about the importance of renewable energy. "Carbon dioxide emission has alarmingly risen in the last few years, and India, along with 130 other countries has declared the intended nationally determined contribution to curb carbon dioxide emission," Raja said.

This includes achieving 40% production through renewable sources by 2030, reducing carbon intensity by taking up afforestation.

Tribunal not to revoke nod for appeal against TNERC tariff order

The Hindu: September 15, 2016

Consumer group says panel extended the control period of solar power traiff

The Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) refuses to revoke the nod given to Energy Watchdog, a consumer group, to appeal against Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) order extending the control period for solar power tariff of Rs. 7.01 per unit.

On January 2016, the tribunal had allowed Energy Watchdog to appeal.

Energy Watchdog said the TNERC extended the control period of solar power tariff ignoring the revised (downward) "benchmark capital cost" for solar power issued by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. As per the said Act, the State Commission was duty-bound to adopt the revised benchmark capital cost, it said.

Energy Watchdog said the Tamil Nadu Generating and Distribution Corporation Ltd., (TANGEDCO) did not challenge the majority judgment and signed at least 31 Energy Purchase Agreements for 25 years with 23 companies on nomination basis at Rs. 7.01 per unit for a total power purchase of 1181 MW.

"These EPAs are estimated at Rs. 34,448 crore. These rates are much higher than prevailing market rates for solar power. The impact of this higher tariff would be borne by the electricity consumers of Tamil Nadu besides the public across the country as TANGEDCO had moved the Centre for a bailout package. TANGEDCO is into massive losses and its debt is over Rs. 70,000 crore," the consumer group said while seeking permission to appeal.

Energy Watchdog named TNERC, TANGEDCO, and the firms which had signed the power purchase agreements as the respondents to its appeal.

Certain firms like Adani Green Energy (Tamil Nadu) Ltd, TN Solar Power Energy Ltd, Universal Mine Developers and Service Providers Pvt. Ltd, among others sought that the permission given to Energy Watchdog to appeal be recalled. They said the consumer group was not an aggrieved party and since the appeal was based on an anonymous letter, it became a public interest litigation. "Such proceedings cannot be initiated before this tribunal," they said.

In an order of September 9, APTEL turned down the reasoning by firms and said that it was not possible for it to revoke the permission to Energy Watchdog or dismiss the appeal at this stage.



Indian State Of Tamil Nadu Gets Approval To Float 500 MW Solar Power Tender

Planet save: September 18, 2016

One of India's leading states in terms of installed solar power capacity, Tamil Nadu, will soon float a huge solar power tender with an intention to meet solar power purchase obligation.

The Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) recently granted approval to a proposal by the state's power utility to float a 500 MW solar power tender. Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) had approached the commission to let it auction this capacity as it would not be in a possible to meet the assigned target to acquire 5% of electricity from solar power projects for financial year 2017-18.

According to government estimates, an installed capacity base of 2.5 GW will be required to meet the 5% solar RPO target in 2017-18. TANGEDCO, however, expects that only 1.6 GW solar power capacity would be operational by that time, thus leaving a shortfall of 900 MW.

While the commission agreed to the utility's proposal to auction 500 MW capacity neither clarified about the shortfall of 400 MW that would still remain. TANGEDCO may look to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates or RECs generated by solar power projects across India that are available for trading every month.

The commission also specified the benchmark tariff for the auction. Project developers will participate in a reverse auction with the highest possible bid of Rs 5.10/kWh (US\$7.6/kWh). TANGEDCO expects that the actual bids could be much lower. The current lowest tariff bids in India are around Rs 4.35/kWh (US\$6.4/kWh).

Tamil Nadu enjoys significant solar radiation and has ample land resources to set up large-scale solar power projects. However, the developers would certainly be concerned by the transmission constraints that exist in the state. Developers of some operational renewable energy projects had recently complained to the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy that the state utility had asked them to curtail generation due to lack of sufficient transmission capacity. The ministry did issue guidelines in favour of the developers stating that wind and solar power projects have a 'must-run' status and in case of any transmission constraints, the utility must first ask the thermal power projects to reduce generation.

Renewable energy ministry pushing states to release wind firms' outstanding payments

Energy World.com : September 16, 2016

The government is talking to power distribution companies in various states to clear their outstanding dues to wind energy players, a senior ministry official said.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is in talks with the distribution utilities to clear the dues of around Rs 3,000 crore which is currently outstanding with various wind power generation companies.

The ministry has also asked the discoms not to discriminate between the payments of companies in renewable and other sources of energy. "There are dues of Rs 2000-3000 crore and we have taken it up with the distribution companies. We have also asked them not to discriminate with the payment within the conventional sources and the wind sector. So they are taking care of it," the official told ETEnergyWorld.

The Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) has been a driving force in India to promote the renewable energy sector. State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have defined their respective RPO Regulations.



Around 40 per cent of wind energy capacity is currently stuck due to issues regarding payments by various distribution companies to generators. As per the official, the payment is held up for the last one year, and it is not among all discoms.

"Gujarat is a good paymaster and there are no issues with Tamil Nadu, too. The problem is with Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. But it is not so much," the official added.

Distribution companies have been financially sick and payment have been stuck for both renewable and conventional sources of electricity. The government hopes as the benefits of the discom reform scheme UDAY kick in, the states will be able to clear most of these dues.

The government plans to take India's renewable energy capacity to 175 Giga Watt by 2022 which comprises 100 GW solar, 60 GW wind, 10 GW from biomass and 5 GW from small hydro powers.

Around 3,300 Mw wind power capacity was added in 2015-16 as compared to the previous highest installation of 3,196 MW in 2011, propelled by technology and conducive policy environment for the renewable sector.

The industry has attracted an investment of over \$3.16 billion and the cumulative installations of the sector is around 64 per cent of India's total grid-interactive renewable energy capacity.

Increased efficiency and timely tariffs revision critical for UDAY's success: ICRA

The Economic Times: September 16, 2016

State-owned distribution utilities will benefit from the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) scheme in FY2017 but stricter focus on efficiency and timely tariff revisions is critical for their sustained financial turnaround said ICRA in a recent study.

UDAY was launched by the centre to improve performances of the state power distribution companies.

Sabyasachi Majumdar, senior vice president, ICRA said: "Discoms will benefit significantly in the near to medium term from measures taken under UDAY. These include lower interest costs arising out of de-leveraging, and reduction in power procurement cost arising out of improved domestic coal availability along with recent policy measures by Government such as flexible utilisation of domestic coal linkage and e-auction process for short term power."

"However, serious focus of utilities on improving their efficiencies, mainly aggregate technical & commercial loss levels is necessary. This has to be in line with targets set by UDAY. Timeliness and adequacy of tariff hike in relation to the cost of power supply is also necessary. It has to necessarily include periodic rise in fuel and power purchase costs. These factors remain critical in the long run for sustained improvement in the financial position of the discoms," he said. Till now 16 states and union territories have signed memorandum of understanding for participating in UDAY. De-leveraging and refinancing under the scheme is expected to improve liquidity and profitability profile of Discom's in the near term.

Improved domestic coal availability along with recent policy measures by the government including flexible utilisation of domestic coal linkage and e-auction for short term power remain favourable for discoms. These would reduce cost of power.

However, ICRA notes that state electricity regulatory commissions (SERCs) in only 20 out of 29 states have issued tariff orders for FY2017 so far, indicating moderate progress in terms of issuance of tariff orders for the year.

Tariff hikes allowed in most states have been modest, ranging between, 0.6% and 8.8%. SERCs in three states have not approved any tariff hike. In two states SERCs have reduced tariff for some categories of consumers.

SERCs from Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have issued tariff orders recently however the tariff determination process has witnessed delays.



Tariff revisions allowed for FY2017 by SERCs in both the states were lower at 3.18% (for Uttar Pradesh) and a negative 0.98% (for Punjab) for the year, against the stipulated level of 5%-6% under MoUs signed for implementation of UDAY.

The respective SERCs in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab cited avoidance of a tariff shock to the consumers as primary reason for the modest tariff hikes. Besides, a limited tariff hike is also on account of stricter norms for efficiency improvement as well as certain other cost items by SERCs, which led to significant disallowance of power purchase cost and other cost overheads.

Given that the fuel and power purchase costs cannot be controlled and accounts for 80% of the cost of supply any Discom, a timely pass-through of variations in power purchase costs to consumers is also critical for the financial health of discoms.

Majumdar said: "Fuel and power purchase cost adjustment framework for such a pass-through is yet to be implemented in Uttar Pradesh, despite a large unrecovered revenue gap - a matter of concern. Tariff hike has been limited, unrecovered revenue gap - a matter of concern. Tariff hike has been limited, unrecovered revenue gap remains quite large particularly for distribution utilities in Uttar Pradesh, also with no clarity on amortization of the same by SERC."

Commission fines MSEDCL official Rs 3.60 lakh

In a jolt to MSEDCL, the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) has asked the company to recover a sum Rs3.60 lakh from a guilty official. This amount has to be paid by the company to a Kolhapur consumer as interest for delay in refunding tariff difference amount. This is second order of its kind in 18 year history of the commission.

MSEDCL had wrongly applied industrial continuous tariff on Caspro Metal Industries from August 1, 2012. Only non-continuous industrial tariff, which is lower, was applicable to Caspro. After the company approached the discom's head office, the Kolhapur office refunded the difference from October 2012 to June 2013 but refused to do the same for the period August and September 2012.

Caspro then approached the consumer grievance redressal forum (CGRF), which order MSEDCL to refund the tariff difference amount for two months. Instead of complying with the order, MSEDCL wrote a letter to the company stating that it had decided to file a suit in high court against the CGRF order. However, no such petition was filed.

When Caspro approached MERC for refund of the amount, MSEDCL went a change of heart and decided to comply with the consumer forum order. MSEDCL refunded an amount of Rs18.13 lakh, which included Rs3.60 lakh as interest.

Consumer activist Pratap Hogade, who represented Caspro, urged the Commission to deduct the interest amount from the salary of the guilty official and order action against the company under Electricity Act, 2003.

The Commission in its ruling stated that as the matter was resolved there was no point in taking action under the Electricity Act as MSEDCL had complied with the consumer forum order. However, as the company had to unnecessarily pay an amount of Rs3.60 lakh due to the guilty official, the MERC has directed to identify the official and recover the amount from his salary. The action taken report in this regard is to be submitted to MERC within three months.

WHAT WAS THE CASE

- * The MSEDCL officer charged excess amount from Caspro in August and September 2012
- * Consumer forum ordered MSEDCL to refund the amount
- * MSEDCL did not obey the order and claimed that it will approach the HC
- * The company did not actually file any petition in HC



* When the consumer approached MERC, MSEDCL refunded the amount with interest of Rs3.60 lakh

* MERC asked MSEDCL to recover the interest from the guilty officer

HIGHEST FINE

MERC's decision to collect Rs3.60 lakh from a guilty official is the highest fine imposed on an officer of MSEDCL by the MERC

Save Energy. Save Money. Save the Planet

Please see the website at www.tecaonline.in for previous issues of TECA News letter