

Source: My Republica, 11 July 2017

Electricity transmission yet to start through Raxaul-Parwanipur line

Ritesh Tripathi

Transmission line with 132 KV capacity between the Indian bordering city of Raxaul to Parwanipur of Parsa district in Nepal has yet to start even after six months of its construction and successful test transmission. Nepal Electricity Authority had declared last December that the transmission line was ready for supply of electricity.

“Tower construction, wire connection and testing has already been completed,” Project Chief Laxmi Narayan Mukhiya said, “This transmission line is ready for supply of electricity.”

Om Prakash Sharma, President of Birgunj Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that if the transmission line could be put to use, then issue of power cuts in the mid-Tarai region could be resolved. Private sector has been pressurizing the authorities to start up this transmission line as soon as possible. The capacity of the Raxaul-Parwanipur transmission line is four times the usual capacity of 33 KV. The 17-kilometer-long transmission line was built according to an agreement between the Nepali and Indian governments to build electricity transmission lines in three bordering points. Initially this line will be used to import electricity from India. The long-term vision is that the same line will be used to export electricity to India if Nepal has surplus production.

“The transmission line is ready. Putting it to use is up to the two countries,” engineer Mukhiya said, “Some paper work at higher levels might have halted the process, which we are not aware of.”

According to the Birgunj-based Consulate General of India, transmission will start very soon. “According to our engineers, there are a few technical issues. Trees are touching the transmission line that needs to be cleared,” Consul Niraj Kumar Jaiswal said, “I hope the line will start very soon.”

Source: The Kathmandu Post, 11 July 2017

Heavy flooding hinders electricity generation

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Massive flooding caused by heavy rain last week has severely hit electricity generation at state-owned and private hydropower projects.

Power generation has been slashed by almost 100 MW as debris swept down by swollen rivers choked the water intake and reduced water flow into the turbines at various projects.

The national grid has lost around 50 MW of electricity from private hydropower projects.

The 25 MW Upper Madi, 10 MW Lower Modi-1 and 3 MW Chaku Khola hydropower projects have been seriously affected by floods, according to state-owned power utility Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA).

Floods have also hit electricity generation by NEA-owned projects. The most severely affected NEA project is the 144 MW Kali Gandaki-A Hydropower Project where output has dropped by 44 MW.

“Kali Gandaki-A should return to full capacity in a few days,” said Dipak Dhital, deputy manager at the NEA’s Load Dispatch Centre. “However, it is producing only around 100 MW currently.”

The NEA-owned project has not been able to generate more than 100 MW from early Monday morning. “At one point, output rose to 110 MW, but it fell again to 100 MW,” said Dhital.

“A large amount of debris carried down by the Gandaki River where the hydropower plant is situated has choked the water intake and reduced the flow of water into the plant’s three turbines.”

If output does not return to normal, it will seriously affect the supply of energy by the NEA as it is the largest project in operation. Moreover, Kali Gandaki-A is of strategic importance as it is located close to major load centres.

The drop in output at Kali Gandaki-A is temporary, according to the NEA. “This is a temporary phenomenon that happens every year when the monsoon is at its peak,” said Dhital. “As soon as the flood in the Gandaki River subsides, the debris clogging the intake will be cleared and water flow to the turbines will be restored.”

Currently, the NEA is more concerned about privately owned hydropower plants. “We do not know the exact scale of damage done by the flood to private projects,” said Dhital. “If output does not return to previous levels for a long time, we might have to cut power supply to consumers.” However, Dhital said that the NEA would not cut power supply to the Kathmandu Valley. “If we have to slash supply, our first target will be areas where there is high leakage,” he said.

Source: My Republica, 11 July 2017

Flooding caused problems in power system, NEA says

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has said that some problems have appeared in the central transmission system due to the flooding.

Saying that electricity generation was disrupted and some problems emerged due to heavy downpour in different parts of the country, the

NEA urged the general public not to doubt if there were power cuts from the NEA.

Power generation from a unit of Upper Madi Hydropower Company has been disrupted, disconnecting 25 megawatt power supply from the National Transmission Line.

Though there was some progress in the hydroelectricity generation, some 35 megawatt power is still to be availed in the national transmission system.

A total of 300 megawatt power was linked in the national grid generated by the private sector but only 265 megawatt power is available from Sunday after the flooding.

The NEA said that Lamki-Attariya 132 KV Transmission Line has been closed for connecting power in Pahalmanpur Sub Station.

Issuing a press statement today, the NEA said that after the closure of the transmission line chances are high for power disruption in Mahendranagar, Attariya and some other area if the power imported from Tanakpur was shortfall. RSS

Source: My Republica, 13 July 2017

Hydropower project ceased at Darjeeling

The protesting groups demanding separate Gorkhaland state in West Bengal has ceased down a hydro power project of capacity 132 mega watt situated at Mongpu area.

The hydropower was tipped as the main source of income for Government of West Bengal after National Hydropower Project Corporation (NHPC) was shut down.

The driver working at hydropower project along with other workers admitted to lock down the hydropower by themselves to help in the Gorkhaland protests.

The Gorkha protestors solemnly demanding for the Gorkhaland state has also closed down the hydropower project built on 'Jaldhaka' river situated in between India and Bangladesh. They have also warned to shut down Teesta-4 hydropower project.