

Source: My Republica, 25 July 2021

Locals affected by Fukot Karnali Hydro Project not happy with compensation being provided for their land

MANMA, July 25: Locals affected by the Fukot Karnali hydropower project have expressed dissatisfaction over the compensation amount being offered to them. The compensation paid for their land is much lower than the prevailing rate in their locality, they said.

The determination of the price by the District Rate Fixation Committee is not right as it is different for land in the rural road and the Karnali corridor, said Ananta Bara of Raskot-8. The rate for land around the rural road has been fixed at Rs. 3,600 to 5,700 per square meter while for the land around the Karnali corridor it is Rs 1050 per square meter.

The project is going to acquire over 1,294 land plots in Raskot, Sannitriveni and Pachaljharana area.

Meanwhile, Chief of the Hydropower Project Hiranman Waiba said the determination committee led by the Chief District Officer fixed the rate and that nobody has been denied their rightful compensation.

The project has reportedly allocated a sum of Rs. 360 million for paying compensation for the land of the locals this year. The locals will also be provided 10 per cent share in the project, Waiba said.

Source: My Republica, 26 July 2021

Recover dues of dedicated feeder and trunk lines: Energy Minister Bhusal

KATHMANDU, July 26: Newly-appointed Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Pampha Bhusal on Sunday directed the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) to recover the long pending dues of dedicated feeders and trunk lines from industrialists.

Speaking at a program organized by the NEA, Minister Bhusal said the power utility has been empowered by the law to collect the dues of electricity bills from the users. “If needed, NEA should step up to cut the electricity supply lines of the industrialists who deny settling the bills,” Bhusal said.

The NEA has been struggling to recover the dues of dedicated feeders and trunk lines from the industrialists since 2015. The NEA had set a premium tariff for factories using electricity through dedicated feeders and trunk lines from August that year. Citing power outage problems at that time, the NEA had decided to impose additional fees on industries that consume a high amount of energy.

The parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has sorted out Rs 14.08 billion dues of around 300 industrial units for the use of electricity through dedicated feeders and trunk lines. Last April, PAC directed the government to recover the amount from these industrial units.

Last month too, NEA wrote once again to the industrialists with the dues of dedicated feeders and trunk lines to clear the dues by the end of this fiscal year or face disconnection for defying the notice. However, the industrialists have

still been visiting the high government officials and political leaders to force NEA take back its decision.

Source: My Republica, 27 July 2021

People below poverty line should be given free electricity: Energy Minister Bhusal

KATHMANDU, July 27: Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Pampha Bhusal said that the government is preparing to bring a policy to provide special facilities to the people living below the poverty line.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Minister Bhusal said the ministry is considering the possibility of providing people living under the poverty line with free electricity.

Stating that the energy sector is the basic premise for moving forward in economic development based on social justice, Minister Bhusal said that energy is the raw material for economic and industrial development. "Its consumption should be ensured in the country," she said.

Minister Bhusal stressed on the need to focus on making development plans so that the electricity generated in Nepal can be used in Nepal. She said that a policy will be formulated to reconsider the rate of electricity. "Our electricity rates are expensive," she said. "According to general economics, the higher the production, the lower the rate but it is not like this in Nepal. Electricity tariff should be adjusted."

Stating that the private sector has contributed to the state by investing heavily in the energy sector, she said, "We should protect the private sector. The government is also their guardian."

She mentioned that the time has come for the energy sector to contribute to the property rights of the people.

Stressing on the need for the government to build large reservoir and semi-reservoir projects that have completed surveys and already have detailed project reports (DPR), she said, "I have come to the conclusion that large reservoir projects should be constructed with the investment of the people and other sectors."

Minister Bhusal said that the country would be able to gain a lot if people start using electricity for cooking instead of using LP gas imported by paying dollars. "Electricity would be made available to the people and areas that have not been electrified by connecting the central transmission line as soon as possible," she added.

Source: Rising Nepal Daily, 29 July 2021

Indrawati III Hydropower Resumes

Chautara, July 29 : The Indrawati III hydropower project, damaged by the floods in Melamchi and Indrawati Rivers, resumed power production after repair since Wednesday.

The 7.5 MW capacity project had received damage by the floods occurred on June 15.

Four towers of the transmission line were pulled down by the flood in Melamchi River and powerhouse was dented by the flood in Indrawati River, said project chief Manolak Shrestha. The dam at Tipeni was breached and electric machine received huge damage.

The project faced the loss of some Rs 25 million. Deputy Plant Manager at the project, Basanta Lal Karna, informed that with the disruption of power production for one and half month, loss of Rs 55 million was recorded.