

Seminar on
“Sustainable Initiatives in Power : Creating Values for Future”
22 September 2018 at MCCI Conference Hall
Press Release

Merchants’ Chamber of Commerce & Industry in association with West Bengal State Electricity Board Officers’ Association organized a Seminar on “Sustainable Initiatives in Power : Creating Values for Future” today at MCCI Conference Hall.

Addressing the Seminar as the Chief Guest, **Shri Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay**, Hon’ble Minister for Power & Non Conventional Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal spoke about the initiatives of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of West Bengal to provide 24x7 power to all since 2011. The customer base has increased to 1 cr. in 7 years. He also spoke about ‘Alo Shree’ project, by which all the Government buildings will have solar rooftops.

He said that in addition to enhanced production, the stress is on reduction of carbon emission. The Plant Load Factor (PLF) had come down from 78.9 to 55.6 in 2016–17. ATC losses have also come down by 4% in the recent years, it is around 28% now. The target is to bring it down to 11%.

Although plants older than 25 years would have to dismantled, as per GoI directive, the Hon’ble Minister said that running of such units would be possible using latest modern technology.

Although West Bengal is a power surplus state now exporting power to Bangladesh, the challenge would be to provide power when the demand rises in future, to provide to the “we should be ready for the future”, the Hon’ble MIC said.

Delivering the Keynote Address, **Dr. A N Biswas**, IAS, Commissioner, Department of Power & NES, Govt. of West Bengal said that the share of renewable was 13% in 2013, which rose 20% in 2017, still far away from the mandate of 40% by 2030. Out of total basket of 344 GW, 71 GW being generated by renewable energy now, with more than 100 GW would have to be achieved within 4 years. He also spoke about bringing in significant improvements in the quality of power, through installation of several 33 KVA substations. He mentioned about 900 MW pumping stations in Purulia, variable pumping stations in Uрга. He also informed about a few hydel power plants in the range of 80–85 MW. He discussed about the future plans of having Battery energy storage & battery operated vehicles, Rain water harvesting, geo thermal heat pump and others.

In his Welcome Address, **Shri Hemant Bangur**, Immediate Past President, MCCI referred to the mandate of generating 175 GW by renewable energy by 2022. He said that aid that given the potential of economic growth in West Bengal, it is extremely important that the power sector infrastructure in the state undergoes significant positive transformation.
