

# Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry

## Seminar on "Sustainable Initiatives in Power : Creating Values for Future" 22 September 2018 at 2 PM at MCCI Conference Hall Brief Proceedings

The Chamber in association with West Bengal State Electricity Board Officers' Association organized a Seminar on "**Sustainable Initiatives in Power : Creating Values for Future**" on 22 September 2018 at 2 PM 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 various initiatives of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal to provide 24x7 power to all since 2011.
- He referred to the Paris Agreement 2015 in which India along with other countries, in order to protect the world from Global Warming, had agreed to gradually move away from thermal generation towards renewable & non conventional energy sources generation. He said that for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in the country, West Bengal has set up a number of 'floating solar plants', to meet the increasing demand for 'Round the Clock Electricity for All by 2035'. Two 5-MW floating solar plants had been set up at Sagardighi & Bakreswar, costing Rs. 56 cr.
- Owing to the overwhelming success of these 2 power plants to provide 24x7 power to the grid, the Department has now decided to set up a 100 MW floating solar plant at Mukutmanipur within the next one year, the Hon'ble MIC added.
- He further mentioned that depending upon the future demand, decision may be taken to set up a 500 MW floating solar plant, anywhere in the state. However, availability of a single massive water body would be a criterion.
- He also referred to the 'Alo Shree' project, by which all the Government buildings will have solar rooftops.
- On the current scenario of demand and supply of power, both at the national and at the state level, he said that unlike most other states, the demand for industrial and commercial power in West Bengal increased by 27.22% and 80.74% respectively. He mentioned about the sincere efforts by the Department to meet the increasing demand within the next 2-3 years.
- He, however, expressed his concern over the high Aggregate Technical & Commercial (ATC) losses, currently at 24%, an impediment to reach the bonafide consumers. ATC losses have come down by 4% in the past 3 years. The target is to bring it down to 11% by 2022 to be the best in the country, he observed.

- The Hon'ble Minister 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.
  - He mentioned that as per the directive given by Government of India, plants older than 25 years would have to be dismantled. However, those units could be run using the latest modern technology, the Hon'ble Minister felt.
  - On his plans to go for modernization of the thermal power plants, he said that talks had been going on with a leading global player to help modernize and technologically upgrade the 450 MW Bandel power plant in Hooghly. The modernization would involve huge costs, and would not only absolve all the polluting agents, but would also reduce fly ash to protect the surrounding environment.
  - If all out efforts to modernize the older thermal plants fail, they would be declared unviable in the future, he noted.
  - Shri Chattopadhyay was of the opinion that 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. "We should be ready for the future", the Hon'ble MIC said.
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- ❖ 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.

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