



SPEECH
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY GEN JJ SINGH,
PVSM, AVSM,VSM (Retd.),
GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ON THE OCCASION
OF
REVIEW MEETING WITH POWER DEVELOPS
(For HEPs above 100 MW Capacity)
ON
Wednesday, 27 JAN, 2010
AT
BANQUET HALL,
ITANAGAR.

I am happy to be here amongst you all today at this review meeting for the Hydro-power projects of above 100 MW capacity. This long due meeting will provide us with a platform for assessing our current status as regards development of hydro-power potential of the State, discuss best practices and also evolve a road-map which should be adopted for improved and faster implementation of all the hydro-power projects in the State. Besides, presentations would be given on the status of individual projects by the concerned developers. I compliment the Chief Minister and the Department of Power for this initiative. With our assessed potential at more than 56,000 MW, we are the future power-house of the country and it is important that we manage this resource well and wisely. Although it took us long to realize the potential of the gold-mine our State was sitting on, I am happy to note that work on it has now started in the right earnest.

The road-map for the development of hydro-power sector in the State was laid with the adoption of the Small Hydro Power Policy 2007 and the State Hydro Power Policy 2008. These policies have paved the way for the development of both small and large hydro-power projects on Public-Private Partnership mode through Central Public Sector Units as well as through Independent Power developers. The success of these policies and their subsequent impact is evident from the fact that over the 35 years ranging from 1971 to 2006, we could add only 1MW of capacity per year. But in the last two years itself, we have added 27 MW of additional capacity.

As on date, the Govt, has already allotted a cumulative capacity of 34,792 MW to different developers. Of this, about 1/4th of the capacity has been allotted to Central PSUs and the remaining 3/4th to Independent Power Producers. This entire capacity is likely to be realized by the end of 2022-23 and by then, the cumulative revenue accrual from share of free power to the State is expected to be Rs. 5348.20 crores annually. Thus, the annual revenue from the power projects alone would be about three times the plan size of the entire State today. This provides us with very exciting and challenging possibilities.

Two mega projects, namely the Kameng Hydro-electric project of 600 MW and Lower Subansari Hydro-electric project of 2000 MW are under execution and likely to be commissioned during December 2012. Today, we will also be signing the formal MoA for the Lower Subansari Project with the NHPC. The 110 MW Pare Hydro-electric Project has also been cleared for execution. I have personally visited the Pare project site on several occasions and am happy to note the progress in the execution of the project. However, NEEPCO should ensure that the financial bids for Package II and III of the project, which were opened way back in Sep. 2009 should now be finalized without any further delay. NEEPCO also needs to be more pro-active and liberal in its approach by providing more employment opportunities to locals in this project.

Techno-economic clearance for the Demwe Lower Hydropower project of 1750 MW and Dibbin project of 120 MW have been obtained recently and that of 2700 MW Lower Siang Project is likely to be received shortly. The DPRs for several other projects are at an advanced stage. A total of 153 potential Hydro-power plant development sites have been identified over the eight major river-basins of the State, and of these, a total of 100 sites have already been allotted. We are now firmly on the runway and ready for the take-off.

At the same time however, we have to be conscious of the fact that this development should not come at the cost of the traditional rights of the local communities. The govt. cannot forsake its obligation of providing alternate shelter and livelihood opportunities to the populace affected by the project. I am happy to note that the Govt. has come out with its "Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy 2008" which will effectively deal with all livelihood related issues of people living on or around the project site. Today I would like to request you to go a step further and make all the affected people, active partners in the development process rather than being mere passive beneficiaries. You should do this by reserving skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled jobs for the local population wherever local talent is available. The developers should also do sufficient ground-work and build a reputation for themselves through entry-point activities before actually

starting the project. This would be in the interest of both the developers and the project.

You must also not forget the tenets of Corporate Social Responsibility and also support other sectors of the State economy. Today, I appeal to each of you present here, to adopt atleast one Primary Health Center anywhere in the State and demonstrate your commitment towards the development of Arunachal Pradesh. This will earn goodwill for you and also aid in trouble-free implementation of your allotted power project.

The per capita consumption of power is now regarded as one of the important parameters for assessing the Human Development Index of the State. In this context, Arunachal Pradesh, which has a per capita annual consumption of about 300 units of electricity is way behind the National per capita of about 700 units. Therefore, it should be our prime concern to ensure that hydro-power not only brings valuable revenue to the state but also empowers the powerless. We have to ensure convergence of schemes like Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana with the hydro-power policy of the State so that the power generated within Arunachal Pradesh first goes to light the houses of Arunachalis.

The hydro-power sector cannot develop in isolation from other sectors. It is therefore important for other Departments, specially Transmission and Distribution Sectors of Power Department and Roads and bridges Sector of PWD Dept. to provide back-up support to this prime-mover of the economy. I have been made to understand that the as per the provisions of the MoA signed with the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, the power developers would also have to evacuate and transmit the power in tandem with its production. By doing so, the Govt, has made the developer, a stake-holder in the transmission and distribution process also. It is exactly visionary policies like these that will go a considerable length in introducing systemic changes in the existing scenario.

Let us remember that we all belong to an era which the future generations of Arunachal Pradesh will remember as the period when the State took its first firm steps on the road to development. We have to discharge this onerous responsibility fairly and efficiently.

I leave you with these few thoughts to ponder upon.

I wish the organizers well and the conference, a grand success.

Thank you.

Jai Arunachal, Jai Hind.