## Source: My Republica, December 20, 2020

# Nepal to export 30 MW electricity to India

KATHMANDU, Dec 20: Nepal is preparing to export 30 MW of electricity to India from next June.

Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Barshaman Pun said that the government is preparing to export 30 MW of electricity to India from next year.

“The electricity generated from June to mid-November will be exported,” said Minister Pun. He said that the Indian market has been explored as there is surplus electricity in Nepal during the monsoon. As most of the hydropower projects in Nepal are based on river flow, electricity is generated at full capacity during the rainy season.

He said that the export will take place through Power Transmission Company in Nepal (PTCN). “We will export electricity 24 hours a day for four months from next year,” he told Republica. “The electricity produced in Nepal will be exported to the Punjab region of India.” Although the Indian side seems interested in making the purchase, the final decision on price has not been made yet. “We will make necessary decisions after the Indian side sends the rate,” he added.

Minister Pun said that the electricity generated in Nepal can be exported to India on a regular basis as soon as the construction of the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project is completed. “The target is to generate 76 MW of electricity from one unit of the project by next April,” he said. “The generation will start in full capacity by that time.”

Minister Pun has claimed that the electricity generated in Nepal will not be wasted under any circumstances. “There is no reason the electricity generated in Nepal will not

find a market," he said. "If regular electricity is made available, neighboring India and Bangladesh will readily buy it."

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has stated that there will be surplus electricity as soon as the construction of the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project is completed. The project is expected to be connected to the national grid within the current fiscal year. Out of the total 7.74 billion units need, NEA imported 1.72 billion units from neighboring India in the fiscal year 2019/20.

**Source: My Republica, December 21, 2020**

# Mistri khola hydro project to generate power in a month

MYAGDI, Dec 21: The 42-MW Mistri Khola hydropower project has stepped up its preparation to generate power within a month.

Based in Annapurna-4, Narchyang of Myagdi district, the project has completed its stipulated tasks related to dam, tunnel construction, penstock pipe and power house. Mountain Energy Nepal Limited is the promoter of the hydro project.

Project's consultant engineer Diwakar Khadka said the structures constructed and equipment installed are on trial now. "The task of constructing structures and installing equipment has been completed. Now is the time to test whether the structures and equipment put in place are functional".

After the trial the power house will also be put on test, Khadka added.

The project initiated on 13 June 2016 had installed the 2270.5 meter long tunnel in April 2019. Its power house has been constructed on the left side of Kaligandaki River based in Besigaun of Narchyang.

The project was estimated to be constructed at the cost of Rs 5.64 billion.

**Source: My Republica, December 22, 2020**

# Solar power project in Butwal starts commercial power generation

BUTWAL, Dec 22: The country's largest private sector-run grid that is connected to a solar power project has started commercial power generation. Ridi Hydropower Development Company Limited has started commercial production after completing the work of 8.5 MW Grid connected to Butwal Solar Power Project.

Executive Director of the company Kuber Nepal said the company has been generating electricity commercially since November 10 after the completion of the solar project at Manigram in Rupandehi. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown, the company completed the work within a year of starting the project and started generating power.

A total of 32,000 solar panels with a capacity of 330 watts have been laid on 26 bighas of land in Tilottama Municipality-6 from which 8.5 MW electricity is being generated. Ten inverters with a capacity of 850 kW have been connected to convert DC energy produced from solar panels into AC.

The 8.5 MVA transformer has upgraded 690 volts into 33 kV and has been connected to the national transmission line. The generated electricity is connected to the Amuwa substation located at a distance of 7.4 kilometers. The project has constructed a 33 kV transmission line and connected electricity to the national grid.

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) for 25 years at the rate of Rs 7.30 per unit. An agreement has been signed with NEA with a guarantee of 14.5 million units of electricity supply annually. The plant is generating about 8-9 hours of electricity daily, said the Project’s Engineer Kushal Neupane. As

there is no battery, electricity will be generated from the solar plant only when there is sunshine.

The project, costing around Rs 720 million, aims to earn Rs 100 million annually. The company said the project has been constructed with 70 percent loan and 30 percent equity investment in which Citizens' Investment Bank and Nepal Bangladesh Bank have invested Rs 490 million.

According to the Department of Electricity Development, a maximum of 1 MW solar plant has been constructed in Nepal so far. In Ramnagar of Nawalparasi, one megawatt and Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Management Board is generating electricity from 680 kilowatts of solar energy. Ridi Hydropower Development Company has been working in the field of renewable energy for the past two decades.

The company completed the 2400 kilowatt Ridikhola Hydropower Project in 2009 and is supplying electricity to the national grid system. The 500 KW Rairang Khola Hydropower Project in Dhading and the 9,900 KW Iwakhola Project in Taplejung have been completed.

The tender was invited publicly in May 2073 BS in accordance with the policy of the government's National Energy Crisis Mitigation and Power Development Decade Concept Paper and Action Plan 2072 BS. In the bidding for 63 MW capacity projects, 18 projects equal to 61 MW were proposed. Of them, Ridy Hydropower Development Company had bagged the tender for the Butwal grid connected solar power project.