

Source: The Rising Nepal, January 10 2021

Largest Solar Power Project Of Nepal

Jhapa, Jan 10 : The construction of the largest Solar Power Project of Nepal has been gaining speed in the district.

Founded two years ago, the Jhapa Energy Limited is constructing the 10 MW solar power plant in 22 bigaha of land in ward no. 3 and 4 of Shivasatakshi municipality of the district.

The project is estimated to cost Rs. 790 million rupees and Rs. 600 million is being managed through bank loan, said the chairperson of the Company Lal Bahadur Sanwa. Sanwa is the former Constituent Assembly member.

The project is expected to go on a trial production by early January 2022 and start commercial production soon after, according to manager of the company, Subash Bhattarai. The power produced from the plant will be sold to the Nepal Electricity Authority.

The company targets to produce 17.6 million units of power in a year. According it will sign a power purchase agreement by the end of this month, and also award the project contract by March.

The company was established considering the great potential of solar energy in Jhapa district and the successful projects in different countries, said one of the proprietors of the project, Ram Chandra Upreti.

The company held its second annual general meeting on Saturday.

Source: The Rising Nepal, January 10 2021

India Gives Green Signal To Import Power Via Tanakpur

By A Staff Reporter

Kathmandu, Jan. 10: Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has received go ahead signal from India to import additional 15 MW of electricity through Tanakpur, India. At present, NEA is importing up to 70 MW of electricity from there at tariff of IRs. 4.14 (Rs. 6.62) per unit.

Hitendra Dev Shakya, acting managing director of NEA, said that up to 85 MW of electricity could now be brought from Tanakpur based on necessity. Nepal has been getting 70 million units of electricity annually from Tanakpur free of cost as per the Mahakali Treaty, and has been buying the rest.

“Even though there is a 100 MVA transformer in Tanakpur now, we could not bring more than 70 MW of electricity from there without permission. After holding several discussions with Indian authorities, we have been allowed to increase the import capacity to 85 MW for January-March and July-December,” said Shakya.

“We were not able to supply electricity from east to west due to the limitation of the transmission line. However, with more electricity coming from Tanakpur, the power supply in the western region will be improved and the expensive electricity imported from Bihar will be reduced,” he added.

NEA had been facing problems in supplying electricity imported through Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur transmission line from Chapur, in Rautahat district, due to the constraint of transmission line.

Shakya said that once the electricity arrived through Tanakpur, it could be transported to Kathmandu and to the eastern region, and that since the transformer capacity at Dhalkebar substation had been upgraded to 100 MW more electricity could be imported from there.

This will suffice to meet the demand of electricity this winter, he added.

The NEA and Indian company NTPC Vidyut Nigam Limited (NVTN) have signed Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), based on which Nepal can import up to 250 MW in July-November, 350 MW in December-April and 200 MW in May-June periods.

Source: My Republica, January 10 2021

Electricity disrupted for four months in Bajura's Budhinanda Municipality

BAJURA, Jan 10: The electricity supply has been disrupted in various places of Bajura for four months after the canal to supply water to the Baddigad micro hydropower was damaged at Kolti.

The heavy rainfall occurred last July caused landslip which damaged the canal that supplied water to the micro hydropower. It resulted in disruption of power at Budhinanda Municipality Ward No 1, 2, 3 and 5. The locals, who are bound to stay in dark since then, have complained that neither municipality nor the electricity management committee paid attention to it.

Shukbir Khadka from Ward No 3 said the electricity management committee was irresponsible because it has been long that canal was damaged.

Moreover, the road track opened by the municipality just above the canal had repeatedly disrupted the water flow and power generation.

The landslip collapsed the canal, which is yet to be reconstructed, admitted hydropower manager Dhruba Regmi. He reasoned that reconstruction of the canal was not begun yet for lack of budget.

Source: The Kathmandu Post, January 11 2021

Locals upbeat as work starts on Phukot-Karnali hydel project

The \$1 billion plant is expected to transform the economy of the impoverished region by creating jobs and business

Work has started on the \$1 billion Phukot-Karnali Hydropower Project in Kalikot in Nepal's far west, spreading cheer among the residents who expect the scheme to transform the economy of the impoverished region marked by rugged mountains.

The 480-megawatt plant is located in Sannitriveni Rural Municipality of Kalikot district.

Locals hope the project will be a game changer in Karnali province, which has the lowest Human Development Index in the country, by creating jobs and firing up business activities.

"The Phukot-Karnali Hydropower Project will change the face of Kalikot," said Bir Thiruva, a civil society leader. "All-round development will grow, employment will be created."

The water of the Karnali River will power the turbines to generate electricity which will be fed into the country's integrated power system at the nearest grid substation, proposed to be built at Raku. The plant will churn out 2,455 gigawatts of energy per hour.

Vidhyut Utpadan Company is executing the construction of the hydropower project. The firm has completed a detailed engineering study of the scheme. "The source of the funding for the project is yet to be decided; it could be the government or a donor agency," said Hiranman Waiba, project chief.

"The environmental impact assessment has reached the final stage," he said. "We have also started work on land compensation as we have planned to finish land acquisition to build the dam within the current fiscal year."

Workers have started constructing a dam at Sisnegada of Sannitriveni-3 to divert the water of the Karnali River to Bhaurekuna, where the project's powerhouse will be built.

The hydro project is estimated to cost \$1 billion. The main dam will be constructed by diverting water from the Karnali River through a 1.5-kilometre-long and 11-metre-wide diversion tunnel. A 6-kilometre-long main tunnel will be built which will affect some areas of Raskot Municipality, Sannitriveni, Pachaljarna Rural Municipality and parts of Khadachakra Rural Municipality.

Kashi Chandra Baral, chief of Raskot Municipality, said that about 7,000 people in Kalikot would get direct employment as a result of the plant. He added that the construction of the hydropower project would also help tourism development.

The people of Kalikot expect their days of poverty to end as 25 percent of the shares in the project have been reserved for them, and this will bring cash to the region.

A tunnel is being built as a trial at Bhaurekunabhir on the border of Narharinath and Sannitriveni located on the edge of the Karnali River. Workers have dug 65 metres of tunnel so far, Waiba said.

A 506-metre tunnel is being built at the powerhouse, and a 180-metre tunnel is being built at the dam site to study the rocks underneath, he said. According to him, there will be reservoirs at the lower part of Sannitriveni, Raskot and Pachaljarna.

As a result of the hydropower project, the alignment of a 35-kilometre stretch from Lalighat to Bhurabagar in Pachaljarna on the Khulalu-Humla road under the Karnali Corridor needs to be changed.

To this end, a survey has been carried out to build a road from Tikhati through Raku, Luyata, Tikuwa and Baddala above the power project.

Locals fear that the Karnali Corridor, which passes through the hydropower project site, will have to be rebuilt. Currently, passenger jeeps and mini-trucks carrying goods ply the road from Jite, Kalikot to Bajura.

Source: The Rising Nepal, January 12 2021

Energy Minister Rayamajhi Inspects Tanahun Hydropower Project

Damauli, Jan. 12: Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Top Bahadur Rayamajhi has inspected the Tanahun Hydropower Project under construction in Rishing Rural Municipality -1, Jhaputar.

Minister Rayamajhi inspected the project on Monday morning and got information about the progress so far.

After the inspection, Minister Rayamajhi said that the project should be completed in time adding that all necessary assistance would be provided by the government.

He said that the government was confident that the national pride projects would be completed as soon as possible.

He took briefs on the work being done by Chinese company, Sino Hydro under phase two of the project.

Minister Rayamajhi was accompanied by Minister for Economic Affairs and Planning of Gandaki Province, outgoing Member of the House of Representatives Krishna Kumar Shrestha and National Assembly member Bhagwati Neupane.

Sino Hydro has been digging the ground to build the power house, main entrance tunnel, tunnel to surge tank and tunnel to the dam site.

On the occasion, Managing Director of Tanahun Hydropower Company Pradip Kumar Thike and Project Chief Achyut Ghimire briefed Minister Rayamajhi about the activities of the project so far.

According to project chief Ghimire, under package two, Sino Hydro has completed the tasks of setting up camps, batching and crossing plants, labs, clinics, stores, equipment rooms, infrastructure, cable tunnel, power house pilot tunnel, and access road excavation. The 140 MW Tanahun Hydropower Project has been constructed under three packages.

The first package includes construction of 140-metre high dam, second construction of tunnel and powerhouse and third package construction of transmission line.

The project has recently called a tender for the third time for the work under the first package.

For the project, 140-metre high dam, 1,162-metre long and 74-metre high tunnel, 89-metre long, 22-metre wide and 44-metre high underground powerhouse will be constructed. The total cost of the project is USD 505 million.