

**Source: The Himalayan Times, 18 April 2021**

## **Upper Tamakoshi to generate electricity at full capacity by August**

The Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project is expected to start generating electricity in fullfledged manner by August, while it will partially generate electricity by mid-May.

During a meeting of the Parliamentary Finance Committee today, Secretary of the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Dinesh Kumar Ghimire informed that power generation from the first unit would start within mid-May.

He said that the work has been intensified to generate 76 MW of electricity by mid-May. He said, "In today's situation, all the vertical slabs have been completed and the generation of 76 MW units has been ensured within a short period of time."

He said that production will be gradually increased over the months of June, July, August and September. Secretary Ghimire also said that 456 MW of electricity will be generated from Upper Tamakoshi by August.

Similarly, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) Executive Director Hitendra Dev Shakya said that work is underway to start generating electricity from Upper Tamakoshi from May 3 as per the schedule. He said that although the first unit was scheduled to be rotated on May 14, it was possible to do so a couple of days earlier and it would be possible on May 14, while the power generation would begin 14 days later.

He said, "We will turn the first machine on May 3. If everything works out, it may happen a day or two earlier even, but for now we have set our eyes on May 3.

Stating that he had visited the project site a few days ago after the delay in the project, NEA Executive Director Shakya said that the project would be completed on time if the work was continued at the same pace. He said that power generation would be started from all the six units of the project by mid-July.

**Source: My Republica, 19 April 2021**

## **Energy ministry to start building Budhi Gandaki Hydropower Project from next FY**

KATHMANDU, April 18: The Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation has planned to start the construction of Budhi Gandaki Hydropower Project from the next fiscal year, despite uncertainty from the selected contractor to start the work.

Speaking at a parliamentary Finance Committee meeting on Sunday, Energy Secretary Dinesh Kumar Ghimire said the ministry has sent a proposal to the government to keep in priority the construction works of the project in the upcoming budget. “We have fairly completed the process of land acquisition and distribution of the land compensation to the project-hit people,” Ghimire said.

The government is looking forward to generating 1,200 MW from the storage type project to be built in the Budhi Gandaki River located at the borders of Gorkha and Dhading districts. For this purpose, the national pride project envisages constructing a 45 kilometers long lake by building a 263 meters tall dam leaving around 50,000 people affected by the project construction. The project will submerge 45 kilometres of the Budhi Gandaki and another 22 kilometres of the valley of Aankhu Khola.

As of now, the government has distributed around Rs 36 billion to acquire 58,000 ropanies of land. The government has collected around Rs 50 billion from infrastructure development tax levied on petroleum products.

The government in September 2018 awarded the contract of the project construction to China Gezhouba Group Corporation without taking it to a bidding process. However, the company is not showing much interest in the project following a controversy, according to ministry officials.

The estimated cost of the project is Rs 250 billion.

**Source: The Himalayan Times, 20 April 2021**

## **Power outage affects daily life in capital**

Vivek Maharjan, a videographer, had to edit and submit the final copy of a wedding video to an overseas client by Sunday evening. However, the power outage caused him to miss his deadline.

"I tried to get the information from the concerned authorities on when the power would come back, but they just kept saying that they had assigned their workers to conduct the maintenance and could not give a definite time."

Meanwhile, Subash Shrestha from Lubhu who works for a non-governmental organisation, had a virtual meeting on Friday afternoon.

"But the power supply was so irregular that I finally resorted to using my mobile data to attend the meeting," he said, adding he missed out on some important discussions because of the outage.

These are just representative cases of the problems faced by residents within the valley over the last three-four days because of the power outages following heavy rainfall and storms.

According to the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), heavy rainfall and storm affected the electricity infrastructure in most places of the valley, because of which various places are witnessing frequent power outages.

"Over the last few days electricity distribution has been affected as the lightning has struck and obliterated electricity poles and transmitters in several places," explained Madan Timsina, spokesperson for NEA.

According to him, electricity distribution divisions of the concerned areas have been trying to sort out the issue as soon as possible.

The problem has been sorted out in some areas but in some areas the issue of power outage is yet to be resolved. "We have received several complaints from consumers that the wind has destroyed electricity poles, electricity wires," he said, "While in other places, trees have fallen on electricity wires.

We are trying our best to carry out immediate maintenance."

Consumers, however, are less than thrilled about the information blackout. Videographer Maharjan said, "It was so embarrassing to not be able to keep my word to my clients. Because NEA officials could not give a clear picture of what was happening, my clients must have thought I'm so unprofessional."

Baneshwor, Jorpati, Sifal, Kalimati, Shankhamul, Battisputali, Satdobato and Balkumari are some affected areas in valley. But no record has been compiled on affected areas.