

Source: My Republica, 4 July 2021

Samundratar-Trishuli 3 B transmission line inaugurated

KATHMANDU, July 4: The Samundratar-Trishuli 3B Hub transmission line and substation was inaugurated on Saturday.

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Saturday virtually inaugurated the transmission line and the 132/33 kV Samundratar substation in Nuwakot from his official residence at Baluwatar.

The 26-kilometer transmission line starting from Samundratar in Dupcheshwor Rural Municipality of Nuwakot to the underconstruction Trishuli 3B Hub substation in Kispang Rural Municipality will be able to transmit up to 270 MW of electricity. Ten hydropower projects of 60 MW are under construction at different stages with private investment in Tadi River and its tributaries to be connected to this line.

Out of the 26 kilometers transmission line, the three kilometers section is multi-circuit. Out of which, two circuit lines will be used by the 37 MW Upper Trishuli-3B project under construction under the joint promotion of Nepal Electricity Authority and Nepal Telecom under the People's Hydropower Program.

The Samundratar substation has 2 30 MVA transformers of 132/33 kV and 2 8 MVA transformers of 33/11 kV. 5 bays on the 132 side and 4 bay devices on the 33 kV side have been connected and brought into operation. All equipment will be controlled by the modern substation automation system.

As electricity will also be supplied locally from the substation, the problem of reduction of electricity voltage in the eastern part of Nuwakot will be solved. The total cost of the

transmission line and substation constructed with the investment of the Government of Nepal and concessional loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) is Rs 1.55 billion.

A contract agreement was signed with ETERN CCCE FEPEC Joint Venture, China on November 28, 2020 for the construction of the transmission line under NEA Project Management Directorate. The substation is spread over 33 ropanis of land. 21 ropanis of land and 948 ropanis of land under the wire have been used for the transmission line tower.

Source: My Republica, 5 July 2021

Much-awaited Upper Tamakoshi Hydro Project formally starts production from Monday

KATHMANDU, July 5: Electricity produced by the long-awaited Upper Tamakoshi Hydroelectric Project has been connected to the national grid from Monday.

The 456-MW national pride project has been constructed with domestic investment. Inaugurating the mega project through a virtual mode, Prime Minister KP Oli said the completion of the project construction has added confidence that similar larger projects can be built with domestic investment in the future.

Bigyan Shrestha, chief executive officer of Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Limited, said the electricity produced by the first unit of the project has been connected to the 220 KV double-circuit Khimti-Gongor transmission line. The 47-km long transmission line that has been constructed on 127 towers has capacity to carry 1,200 MW of electricity.

The project consists of six units, having fitted with six underground turbines and six generators each with a capacity of producing 76 MW of electricity. According to Shrestha, they have planned to go into full-fledged production by mid-October.

The mega project that started its construction a decade ago has crossed its first deadline by six years to start its actual production. Initially, the total cost till the project completion was estimated at Rs 48.51 billion, which has escalated to Rs 84 billion with delays caused due to various factors.

Source: My Republica, 7 July 2021

Nepal being self-reliant in tea, electricity wire and conductor, footwear, zinc sheet and paints: DoI report

KATHMANDU, July 7: The government has included five more items — tea, electricity wire and conductor, footwear, zinc sheets and paints — in the lists of the potential goods in which Nepal is being self-reliant.

According to a report recently unveiled by the Department of Industry (DoI), it has reached the conclusion following a study of 75 sample industries producing these goods. These goods have been found sustaining the livelihood of thousands of workers and their families.

The study shows there are 146 tea estates and 14,014 small tea farmers in the country. The export of domestic tea per year is around 11,185 tons while the imports account for 218 tons annually. It shows that the country's export of tea is around 50 times bigger than the import volume.

Similarly, there are 25 industries manufacturing electric cables and conductors. They are being operated at only 40 percent of their production capacity due to low domestic demand. "As the import of these products is very nominal at present, the existing industries could easily meet the market demand that is expanding at 13 percent annually," reads the DoI report.

In the footwear segment, six large-scale manufacturers, 15 medium-size industries, 300 small industries and 1,200 micro enterprises are in operation. These industries have been utilizing 40 percent of their capacity. DoI says appropriate government policies

could enhance the market of these domestic products despite being based mostly on imported raw materials.

The five zinc sheet factories in the country have been utilizing 63.3 percent of their production capacity. The domestic demand for the product is growing at 7.3 percent annually.

Likewise, the capacity utilization of the paints industry is only 59 percent. While products of these industries currently fulfill 90 percent of the domestic demand, a suitable government policy can help replace the imported products completely.

According to the DoI, as of now, Nepal is self-reliant in sugar, cement, iron rod, selected types of medicines, milk, meat products, bricks, green vegetables, furniture and soaps, among others.

Source: Rising Nepal Daily, 8 July 2021

Land Acquisition Process For Dudhkoshi Hydel Project Initiated

By Gopal Chandra Subedi, Kathmandu, July 8: The government has initiated the process for the land acquisition for the 635-MW reservoir-based Dudhkoshi hydropower project.

The District Administration Office, Khotang, published a notice on July 7 about holding the transaction of land to be acquired in Rawabesi Rural Municipality and Aiselukharka Rural Municipality.

A meeting point of three districts

The mega hydropower project will be centered at a meeting point of the three districts, Khotang, Okhaldhunga and Solukhumbu.

The land acquisition has been initiated from two municipalities of Khotang. Some 3,876 hectares of land is estimated to be affected in the three districts for the project.

The administration has made public a number of plots of land and their owners that are to be fully or partially acquired for the project in the 6 wards of Rawabesi and three wards of Aiselukharka Rural Municipality in Khotang District.

The notice is published in the Gorkhapatra daily.

The Project has informed that 12 thousand ropani of land has been put under hold for acquisition.

Any purchases, sales and construction work cannot be proceeded in the land thus put under hold.

The preliminary estimation shows that Rs 12 billion will be incurred for the acquisition of land for the project to be led by the Nepal Electricity Authority.

According to the head of the Dudhkoshi Hydropower Project Basanta Shrestha, a study is being conducted on the records of the land to be acquired in Okhaldhunga and Solukhumbu.

The project management has moved for the stay order on land after the assurance of amount from the Ministry of Finance for land acquisition although financial management is yet to be finalized.

Fixing the price of land and residence

An estimation committee for the amount of compensation to the landowners will be formed under the coordination of Chief District Officer

The committee will determine the price of land and residence on the basis of government and prevailing price.

The acquisition of land will be based on the price determined by the committee on behalf of the project.

Shrestha informed that 2,500 households will have physical and financial impacts due to the establishment of physical infrastructure and other assets for the project.

The Rawabesi, Aiselukharka and Halesi Tuwachung of Khotang , Chisankhugadhi Rural Municipality of Okhaldhunga, Necha Salyan and Thulung Dudhkoshi of Solukhumbu will be affected by the dam area and infrastructure of the powerhouse.

Some 920 hectares of land will be submerged due to the construction of the dam.

The dam will be constructed in between Baseri of Khotang and Bashaure of Olkhaldhunga.

635 Megawatt Project

The project will generate 3.44 billion units of power per year.

In this, 1.35 billion units will be generated in the winter season and 2.8 billion units in the rainy season.

The project is estimated to cost Rs. 153 billion.