Source: The Kathmandu Post; 30 July 2016

Kulekhani dam yet to fill up

PRATAP BISTA

Despite heavy downpour in many parts of the country, the reservoir of the Kulekhani Hydropower Project is yet to be filled up due to low rainfall around the country's only reservoir-type project.

Kulekhani I and II produce 92MW electricity, while another 14MW Kulekhani Project is currently under construction.

The reservoir had not been filled up last year too. As of Wednesday, the water level was at 1,513.39 metres.

During the same period last year, the level was at 1,514.94 metres, according to officials of the project.

"Rainfall in the area has remained poor," said an engineer of the project.

The reservoir's capacity is 1,530 metres. But due to overuse of the plant during last year's blockade, the water level has come down to 1,503 meters last year.

There has been massive rainfall in areas such as Daman, Palung, Tistung, Chitlang, Bajrabarahi, Aagra, Kulekhani, Markhu and Phakel of Makawanpur.

NEA officials are worried the reservoir may not be filled up this year too. The water level is increasing by 50 centimetre to a metre every day. The 7km long and 300 metre wide artificial lake used to inundate the Markhu area in previous years.

Source: The Himalayan Times; 31 July 2016

Planning for Nepal's electric future

Over dependence on imported fossil fuels

Pradeep Gangol

The last fiscal year, Nepal's export earning was Rs 85 billion and Nepal spent Rs 110 billion on the import of petroleum products only. It not only drains our national coffer, but also pollutes the environment. This excessive dependence on imported petroleum products is not only unsustainable from an economic point of view, but undesirable from an energy security point of view well.

Therefore, Nepal must shift gear and put its efforts to wean away from the addiction of excessive use of imported petroleum products and switch over to the use of renewable energy for creating Nepal's electric future.

Vision for future In such a grim scenario, we must have long term plans guided by vision to break free from the use of fossil fuels. Our vision should be to secure energy security, reduce dependence on the use of petroleum products substantially, and to contribute to environment protection.

Innovations There have been many encouraging innovations in the recent days that will certainly take us nearer to our goal of electric future. Some companies like Tesla and Panasonic are focusing on making lower cost batteries that can store more energy in a single charge. Still others are building networks of electric car chargers in shopping centres and office parking lots that drivers can use to refill cars when necessary. Tesla's fast chargers, for example, can add about 170 miles worth of electricity to its car batteries in about 30 minutes. If an Israeli startup achieves its goal, electric cars will travel hundreds of miles after only five minutes of charging.

Planning for future Our vision and long term plan for an electric future should be based on our national energy strategy plan. Our vision should be to reduce the use of petroleum products by say, 50 per cent within the next five years and frame our fiscal and regulatory policies, rules and regulations accordingly, so as to promote the use of hybrid and electric vehicles. We should incentivise investors to build out dense network of battery charging stations. There should be battery charging stations all over the country. In the beginning, the charging stations should be in big cities like Kathmandu valley, Biratnagar, Birgunj, Hetauda, Birgunj, Janakpur, Bhairahawa and Butwal, Nepalgunj and along the highways.

We should help build out network of electric car chargers in shopping centres and office parking lots that drivers can use to refill cars when necessary.

We must promote electric cooking to reduce our dependence on LPG gas, by increasing the system capacity of our national grid and upgrading the capacity of our distribution lines and transformers. Feed — in tariff should be introduced so as to encourage solar plants and feed in solar energy in national grid.

We should have trolley buses in the routes with very high passenger traffic density like Rangeli- Biratnagar- Dharan; Raxual- Birgunj- Hetauda, Sunauli- Bhairahawa- Butwal, Ru p a i d i y a - N e p a l g u• g - Kolhapur et cetera . Our long term vision should be to run electric trains along East West Highway, and Mid- hill Highway, Kathmandu- Pokhara- Lumbini route, Kathmandu– Birgung route . Take home message A paradigm shift is necessary in the way we think about our energy future, climate change and act urgently towards creating a sustainable electric future for Nepal, before it is too late. It would be a blunder to see our vision, dream of sustainable electric future dashed by our continued reliance on fossil fuels.

The author is a freelance engineer, with interests in energy, environment and economic development. He can be contacted through prdpgl@ gmail. com Over dependence on imported fossil fuels Our vision and long term plan for electric future should be based on our national energy strategy plan nepalsutra. files. wordpress. com hydro highlight

Source: The Kathmandu Post; 1 August 2016

Law planned to crack down on lazy hydro developers

BIBEK SUBEDI

The government is preparing an Energy Crisis Reduction Bill containing a provision that hydropower projects with a capacity of more than 10 MW should be awarded only through competitive bidding. The proposed law is expected to facilitate the implementation of the 10-year National Energy Emergency Decade.

According to an Energy Ministry official, such a provision is necessary to ensure that only companies or individuals with a willingness and ability to develop a project are awarded the contract. Currently, projects are being awarded on a first come, first served basis. As an exception, six hydropower projects, known as the Super Six, were awarded through competitive bidding a few years ago.

"We haven't made much progress in hydropower generation despite the issuance of a huge number of licences as developers have not been showing much interest in constructing the projects they have been awarded," said Koshal Chandra Subedi, joint secretary of the Energy Ministry. "Developers apply for a licence only to get hold of it and then sell it to others who are actually interested in developing the project. Once the bill becomes law, only developers with the required technical and financial ability will be able to obtain a licence." In order to implement the provision, the Department of Electricity Development will make a list of projects of more than 10 MW capacity by conducting a preliminary survey.

Once the study is completed, it will publish a notice asking interested developers to come forward. The department will also set the criteria to evaluate the eligibility of hopeful developers.

The Energy Ministry has sent the bill to the Finance and Law ministries for their approval. After it is okayed by the Law Ministry, it will be submitted to the Cabinet's bill committee. The bill will then be tabled in Parliament for its final endorsement. According to Subedi, the proposed law should be passed within a couple of months. Meanwhile, the Energy Ministry plans to make a number of amendments to Electricity Act 1992 and introduce stringent laws to prevent the trend of holding on to hydropower project licences and not getting on with the construction of the project.

As per the proposed amendment, the developer of a hydropower project failing to complete its construction within the deadline will be granted an extension upon payment of a penalty. If the contractor does not finish the project within the extended period too, the licence will be terminated.

The Electricity Act says the contractor should finish the construction of a hydropower project within five years of the issuance of the permit, but it allows time extensions without paying a penalty.

Source: The Kathmandu Post; 1 August 2016

Fire at NEA Suichatar sub-station, electricity disrupted at various parts in Capital

A fire broke out at Suichatar-based Nepal Electricity Authority Sub-Station on Monday.

Electricity at various parts of the Capital has been disrupted due to the fire.

The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

Officials present at the scene have informed that the fire has been brought under control.

Source: The Rising Nepal; 1 August 2016

Ministry of Energy refutes rumor on Budhi Gandaki project work to be given to China

The Ministry of Energy (MoE) has clarified that there has been no any formal decisions made yet regarding granting one of the biggest hydro electricity projects in the country- the Budhi Gandaki -to a Chinese company.

The clarification has come following the rumor widespread that the Ministry was going to hand over the construction of the 1200-Megawatt project to China Gezhouba Group of Companies (CGGC) Ltd.

The Chinese company however had sent a letter to the Ministry proposing the construction of the Project situated on the bordering place in Gorkha and Dhading district on July 6 this year, according to Secretary of the MoE Suman Prasad Sharma.

Earlier at the meeting of the Agriculture and Water Resources Committee under the Legislature-Parliament, Secretary Sharma had shared about the correspondence of the Chinese company.

The MoE had sent a letter to Chinese embassy in Nepal on July 14 through Ministry of Finance to acquire more information on the proposal made by the Chinese company, said Secretary Sharma.

"It is only correspondence. No any decisions have been made to this effect" clarified Sharma.

As per the existing provisions of the Electricity Development Act a project can be directly contracted out without any competitive bidding and the process could be forwarded if any investor proposes to this effect.

Source: My Republica; 1 August 2016

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Source: The Himalayan Times; 1 August 2016

EDITORIAL: Energy cooperation

Regional cooperation in energy development could make great strides in practice if countries of the region worked in the spirit of mutuality of interests

The future of South Asia looks bright as it has one of the fastest growing economies in the world. However, there is concern about whether it would be able to overcome the energy poverty that it is now facing. With a growth rate projected to be 7.3 per cent in 2017 as against 7.1 per cent in 2016 in the region focus is being laid in ensuring that there is enough growth in the production of energy in order to power development endeavours.

Therefore, it is likely that the region will save as much as $226 billion by establishing an effective and efficient electricity grid in the region between 2015 and 2040.

This is feasible provided the countries in South Asia cooperate effectively with one another in the energy sector.

This sector has not been able to develop although it has been making efforts to do so for the last two decades. What we need is to boost regional cooperation in this regard when the need of the hour is to gather momentum in generating the required energy in the days ahead to power that is necessary.

It is sad to state that there is a trust deficit among the countries concerned mainly between the major players. As such, the stakeholders and experts in a regional dialogue have laid much stress on the development of a regional electricity grid, particularly because there is much space for power trade in South Asia.

If this bid is to materialize the private sector should also be involved to generate energy and build transmission lines which are much in demand. In order to do so there is no alternative to coordination among the countries involved so that it would be possible to see cooperation in the energy sector.

South Asia can easily meet the demand for energy through cooperation because of the load profiles.

An example is that Nepal and India can benefit immensely because there is high demand of electricity in Nepal during the dry season and it has surplus energy during the rainy season whereas in India the case is just the opposite.

Nepal could very well become an energy exporter as it is located close to the load centre of India. Nepal has the potential to gain by supplying surplus energy to both India and Bangladesh. Experts also moot trilateral cooperation among Nepal, India and Bangladesh which is essential for the development of the energy market through generating more energy.

This could be done by making necessary policies and also reforms in the energy sector without which it would be difficult to find investment from both the private and foreign investors. What is called for is reform in the power sector and also coordination so far lacking in the policy, legal and regulatory frameworks.

Should this be achieved it would foster intra-regional investment in the energy sector. As the region still relies on fossil fuels for energy, clean energy from hydel plants would also contribute to the reduction of emissions of carbon dioxide enabling the region to achieve the target set by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The concept of regional cooperation in energy development could make great strides in practice if the countries of the region worked truly in the spirit of mutuality of interests and fair distribution of the investment and benefits.

Restore the lake

Rupa Lake is on the verge of extinction because of human encroachment, soil erosion and invasive plants like water hyacinth that spreads fast in swamp areas.

One of the major reasons behind the shrinking of the lake can be attributed to the land erosion from the surrounding hills where country roads are built without taking into account environmental consequences.

Due to heavy deposit of mud every year during the rainy season, the lake has been reduced to 8.75 hectares of water land from its total area of 163.9 hectares; 33 hectares of land has been illegally occupied by locals for farming.

The Lekhanath Municipality where the now-shrunken lake is situated must take the sole responsibility to preserve its sanctity and beauty by restoring the water body.

One of the daunting tasks to restore its originality is to remove the soil deposited underneath the lake bed and discourage the locals from encroaching upon it.

As the lake is very close to the Pokhara Sub-Metropolis locals can earn their living from various tourism activities and fishery business if the lake is well preserved.

However, the locals must be taken into confidence to restore its lost glory.

Source: The Kathmandu Post; 1 August 2016

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Source: The Himalayan Times; 2 August 2016

Share of electricity to rise in energy mix

Projection at a glance

	Base Case (5% GDP growth rate)			7% GDP growth rate			10% GDP growth rate		
	2020	2025	2030	2020	2025	2030	2020	2025	2030
Popultion (in million)	29.89	31.97	34.18	29.89	31.97	34.18	29.89	31.97	34.18
GDP (USD billion)	24.11	30.78	39.28	27.01	37.88	53.12	31.88	51.34	82.69
GDPper capita (USD)	807	963	1,149	904	1,185	1,554	1,067	1,606	2,419
Total Electricity Demand (GWh)	13,079	21,567	33,437	13,666	23,521	38,299	14,664	27,217	48,706
ELECTRICITY USAGE									
Agriculture (in%)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Construction, Mining & Manufacturing (in%)	30	30	32	32	34	37	35	40	46
Services (in%)	6	7	9	6	7	9	6	8	8
Freight Transport (in%)	4	6	6	4	6	7	5	7	9
Passenger Transport (in%)	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Household (in%)	57	54	51	55	50	44	51	43	35

Source: NPC, IBN

Study says per capita electricity demand will stand at 978.3 units in 2030

Per capita electricity demand is likely to soar to 978.3 units by 2030 in the country if the economy expands at the rate of five per cent per annum, a latest study says. Per capita electricity consumption currently stands at 175 units, which is one of the lowest in the world.

Although forecasts on energy and electricity demand have been made in the past by many governments and multilateral agencies, those studies have failed to take latent demand into consideration.

The latest study, conducted jointly by the National Planning Commission and the Investment Board Nepal, on the other hand, has taken changing social needs of the population, such as demand for transportation, lighting and air-conditioning, into account.

The demand for energy depends on demography, including size of urban and rural population, population growth rate and strength of labour force; economic growth rate; energy consumption by various industries, such as agriculture, construction and mining; modes of freight and passenger transportation; and household usage, says the report titled 'Energy Demand Projection 2030'.

The study, conducted on the basis of Model for Analysis of Energy Demand (MAED) developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency, says that the country's population will grow to 39.3 million by 2030 from 27.6 million in 2014. Also, the share of urban population will grow to 49 per cent of the total population by 2030 from 40 per cent in 2014, while number of households will jump from 5.4 million in 2014 to 7.7 million by 2030.

Because of these demographic changes and considering economy will grow by five per cent per annum till 2030, Nepal's electricity demand will surge to 33.4 billion units by 2030, says the report. To meet this demand, Nepal must have installed electricity generation capacity of 6,358 megawatts, adds the report.

This installed capacity is, however, for final usage. "So, a reserve capacity is required for transmission losses (1,211 MW) and outages (2,523 MW)," says the report. "This means the required installed capacity to service demand in 2030 hovers around 10,092 MW."

However, the installed capacity projection has been made at 60 per cent system capacity factor. This means plants that generate electricity are estimated to operate for 60 per cent of the time in a year.

"(But) given the current imperative of building storage plants and anticipated capacity increases in other renewable, such as wind and solar, the system capacity will likely be lower than 60 per cent," says the report, adding, "At a system capacity factor of 50 per cent and 47 per cent, the required installed capacities to service demand in 2030 will be 12,000 MW and 12,757 MW, respectively."

The report says if economy continues to expand by five per cent per annum till 2030, agriculture's share in the economy, which currently stands at 33 per cent, will drop to 22 per cent. On the other hand, share of mining and manufacturing in the gross domestic product will jump from seven per cent at present to 12 per cent by 2030, says the report. However, the share of services sector in the economy, which currently stands at 52 per cent, will remain at almost the same level of 54 per cent in 2030.

As economic activities change over the years, electricity will also displace many fuels that are currently being used, adds the report.

For instance, irrigation will be powered exclusively by electricity, while fossil fuel, such as coal, and motor fuel, such as diesel and petrol, used in construction, mining and manufacturing sectors will be partially replaced by electricity. Also, electricity is expected to replace a small fraction of total freight and passenger transport energy requirement due to use of electric powered trains, buses and battery-powered vehicles.

The report also says that electricity will fulfil 52 per cent of total cooking energy needs of urban households by 2030 from little over three per cent at present, while 45 per cent of rural cooking energy needs will be fulfilled by electricity. "These changes in energy consumption pattern will increase the share of electricity in energy mix to 23 per cent by 2030 from existing six per cent," says the report.

Source: The Kathmandu Post; 2 August 2016

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Source: The Kathmandu Post; 3 August 2016

MoE appoints facilitator of DPR review team

The Ministry of Energy (MoE) has appointed Nabin Raj Singh as the facilitator of a team formed to evaluate the detailed report of 4,800-megawatt Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project.

The appointment was made as a working group formed under Secretary of the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), Dhana Bahadur Tamang, failed to expedite process of evaluating the detailed project report (DPR) submitted by WAPCOS Ltd, an Indian state-owned company.

"Singh (chief of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, which is under the Department of Electricity Development) has been asked to get inputs from other members of the group and compile them. The compiled information will be used by the MoE to make its stance clear on recommendations and findings incorporated in the DPR," MoE Deputy Spokesperson Gokarna Raj Pantha told *The Himalayan Times*.

Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA), the developer of the Pancheshwar project, had hired WAPCOS to prepare the detailed report of Pancheshwar project, which is being developed jointly by Nepal and India. The Indian company submitted the final draft of the DPR in March.

Since then, the PDA has handed over copies of the draft DPR to governments of Nepal and India, seeking feedback.

Although DPR can only be finalised if both governments submit their views on findings of WAPCOS, the Nepali side has not formally initiated works in this area.

This has raised the spectre of Nepal missing October-end deadline to endorse the DPR. Delay in endorsement of the DPR will hit implementation of the project being built at a cost of Rs 480 billion on Mahakali River in far-western Nepal.

To initiate DPR evaluation process, the MoE had earlier reached out to WECS, which, in turn, formed a working group of experts under its Secretary Tamang. The committee comprises former bureaucrats cum energy experts, such as Surya Nath Upadhyay, Sriranjan Lacoul, Subarnalal Shrestha, Arjun Prasad Shrestha, Lekhnath Singh Bhandari and Som Nath Poudel, among others.

Earlier, the working group had also floated the idea of forming two sub-committees to look into technical details mentioned in the draft DPR. But these sub-committees are yet to be formed.

The DPR review committee and sub-committees have three major tasks to perform.

First is related to hydrology, which includes study of movement, distribution and presence of water in river.

Second is determining benefits that Nepal will reap from the project. This is essential because the Mahakali Treaty says the project cost will have to be borne by both the countries in proportion to the benefits they obtain.

So, unless the government figures out benefits Nepal is likely to reap, it cannot ascertain the financial contribution it will have to make to build the project.

The committee and sub-committees should also look into the project's engineering design proposed by WAPCOS. This is also essential because Nepal falls in earthquake-prone zone and damage caused to dam or other infrastructure may cause havoc in both Nepal and India.

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This has raised the spectre of Nepal missing October-end deadline to endorse the DPR. Delay in endorsement of the DPR will hit implementation of the project being built at a cost of Rs 480 billion on Mahakali River in far-western Nepal.

To initiate DPR evaluation process, the MoE had earlier reached out to WECS, which, in turn, formed a working group of experts under its Secretary Tamang. The committee comprises former bureaucrats cum energy experts, such as Surya Nath Upadhyay, Sriranjan Lacoul, Subarnalal Shrestha, Arjun Prasad Shrestha, Lekhnath Singh Bhandari and Som Nath Poudel, among others.

Earlier, the working group had also floated the idea of forming two sub-committees to look into technical details mentioned in the draft DPR. But these sub-committees are yet to be formed.

The DPR review committee and sub-committees have three major tasks to perform.

First is related to hydrology, which includes study of movement, distribution and presence of water in river.

Second is determining benefits that Nepal will reap from the project. This is essential because the Mahakali Treaty says the project cost will have to be borne by both the countries in proportion to the benefits they obtain.

So, unless the government figures out benefits Nepal is likely to reap, it cannot ascertain the financial contribution it will have to make to build the project.

The committee and sub-committees should also look into the project's engineering design proposed by WAPCOS. This is also essential because Nepal falls in earthquake-prone zone and damage caused to dam or other infrastructure may cause havoc in both Nepal and India.

Source: The Himalayan Times; 4 August 2016

RHL bags survey licence of two hydel projects

Remit Hydro plans to tap remittances as major source of financing

The Ministry of Energy (MoE) has decided to issue survey licence of two hydropower projects in the eastern part of the country to Remit Hydro Ltd (RHL) based on the recommendation of Department of Electricity Development (DoED). The DoED had recommended issuing survey licence of 71.5-megawatt Ghunsa Khola Hydropower Project and 53.7MW Sinbuwa Khola Hydropower Project to RHL. The ministry has recently approved the recommendation and the DoED will issue the licence to RHL following the decision, Energy Secretary Suman Prasad Sharma told *The Himalayan Times*.

RHL, established as a subsidiary of Hydroelectricity Investment and Development Company Ltd (HIDCL) in February of 2015, had proposed to develop hydro plants by mobilising internal resources of the country. The RHL plans to tap remittances as major source of project financing for hydro projects.

State-owned HIDCL had established a subsidiary to prove that hydropower projects can be developed through internal resources. The paid-up capital of the subsidiary stands at Rs 255 million.

The projects, which the RHL is going to develop, will not exceed a total cost of Rs 19 billion, as per HIDCL.

RHL had proposed to develop mid-sized hydro projects (of around 150 megawatts), but the DoED has recommended two small-sized projects in Taplejung district. “Both projects can be developed simultaneously as they are located close to each other,” said Deepak Rauniar, CEO of HIDCL. “We will not treat them as separate projects.”

Feasibility study on Ghunsa project has already been completed. However, Rauniar stated that RHL will review the feasibility of Ghunsa and begin the feasibility study of Sinbuwa project. RHL will develop the project after fast-tracking Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), as per Rauniar. RHL will need to conduct the EIA as the installed capacity of both the projects is above 50MW. RHL will have to complete all these procedures within five years to obtain the generation licence of the said projects.

RHL plans to hold a 51 per cent stake in these projects, while 24 per cent equity investment will come from migrant workers, 10 per cent from the locals, and the remaining 15 per cent will be raised through initial public offering (IPO). RHL has been preparing to allocate certain per cent of local shares and IPO to females to promote gender inclusion and also to empower women. The modality to sell the shares to migrant workers will be finalised soon.

“We’ve initiated the Remit Hydro concept in Nepal because people at large here don’t believe mid-sized hydro projects can be developed utilising domestic resources,” said Rauniar. “As the monetary policy had raised the threshold of financing in agriculture and hydro projects to 15 per cent of the total loan portfolio of the commercial banks, there is enormous untapped resource within the country that can be mobilised to develop these hydro projects.”

Source: My Republica; 4 August 2016

NEA's annual loss doubles to Rs 11.57 billion

Accumulated loss at Rs 38 billion

KATHMANDU, Aug 4: Annual loss of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) nearly doubled to Rs 11.57 billion in 2015/2016.

It had suffered loss of Rs 6.46 billion in 2014/15.

NEA plans to make public its data during its anniversary celebration on August 17, according to officials of NEA.

The power utility imported additional 380 million units of electricity from India in the past fiscal year after power generation from its 17 plants and privately owned plants fell by 190 million units and 100 million units, respectively, data shows.

With this loss, NEA's accumulated loss has reached Rs 38 billion, surpassing the accumulated loss of Rs 27 billion in 2011 which was written off by the government in the same year.

NEA has reported the highest annual loss among public enterprises.

Officials say energy import from India is the major reason behind soaring annual loss. NEA suffered loss of Rs 3 per unit while distributing energy imported from India. Loss due to price difference is around Rs 5 billion.

NEA mobilized total revenue of Rs 32 billion in 2015/16. It paid a combined amount of Rs 24 billion to independent power producers and Indian electricity suppliers.

According to NEA, low rainfall resulted to lower water collection at Kulekhani Reservoir leading to decline in energy production by Kulekhani I and Kulekhani II plants by 27.3 million units in the past year. Likewise, Kaligandaki 'A' - the largest hydropower project in the country with installed capacity of 144 MW - generated only 760 million units in 2015/16 compared to 929 million units a year earlier.

Shree Ram Pandey, station manager of the project, said power generation fell this year as special maintenance work is going on. “Maintenance work, which started on May 23, is continuing every today. Water discharge during dry season was also low. It also affected power generation,” added Pandey.

Likewise, power plants, including Upper Bhotekoshi Hydropower Plant, in Sunkoshi basin were affected by the earthquake. Upper Bhotekoshi suffered massive damage by a flashflood in Bhotekoshi River last month. It may take some more months for the project to start generation.

NEA's technical loss also increased by 1.34 percentage point, or 5.4 percent, to 25.78 percent of total grid supply. It means one-fourth of the energy, which is worth around Rs 6 billion, is lost from the system.

NEA had pledged to reduce technical loss by at least by one percentage point annually in 2011. But such loss is increasing with each passing year.

Statistics shows NEA's expenditure in distribution has increased by 17 percent or Rs 920 million in monetary terms. Officials attribute such a significant rise to maintenance of overloaded transformers that caught fire by the use of induction stoves and other electrical appliances at the height of energy crisis due to Indian blockade last year. They say they were yet to figure out other possible reasons behind significant rise in loss.

With the recent 18 percent increment in electricity tariff, NEA expects its income to increase in the current fiscal year. However, the plan to import more electricity to reduce load-shedding substantially will prove costlier for NEA.

The electricity utility plans to import a total of 580 MW from India in the current fiscal year. It is importing around 320 MW from India at present.