

Intervention made by India against Agenda Item 2 of 3rd Session of Committee on Energy of UNESCAP

Agenda (2): Energy security for a greener, more resilient and more inclusive energy future in the Asia-Pacific region

His Excellency, Delegates from ESCAP member countries and associate member countries, Ladies and Gentleman.

It is my pleasure and I am privileged to be intervening on behalf of Government of India on this very important Agenda item on the 3rd Session of Committee on Energy of UNESCAP.

I would like to bring into the notice of the Chair that India is making a good progress in all the three pillars of Energy Trilemma such as Energy Security, Energy Equity and Energy Sustainability.

In so far as Energy Equity is concerned, Government of India is committed to improving the quality of life of its citizens by ensuring adequacy of electricity availability. The aim is to provide each household access to electricity, round the clock. The 'Power for All' by 2022 program is a major step in this direction. Indian experiences can be taken up as a case study for Universal Access to Energy as we have taken some landmark initiatives towards this endeavour like Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana - DDUGJY and Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – 'SAUBHAGYA'. Under DDUGJY electricity was provided to all villages in the country. On 28th April, 2018 all inhabited census villages in the country were declared electrified.

Under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – 'Saubhagya' free electricity connections to all households were provided. There were around 3 Crore un-electrified households in the country as on October 2017 and as on March 2019, almost 100% electrification of households have been achieved.

In an effort to promote Energy Security of the country, Government has been undertaking proactive steps to encourage energy transition in the country. Government of India has embarked upon clean energy transition through increasing energy efficiency and deployment of renewables while ensuring access to affordable energy, which is paramount for sustainable development and climate change mitigation. Energy transition through retiring of old and inefficient coal based power plants; new capacity addition through use of supercritical technology; increasing deployment of renewable energy; and enhanced energy efficiency have been a key focus area of the Government of India. The focus has now shifted to having a cleaner environment along with sustainable power generation.

Another key focus is on implementing a 5-fold increase in the overall RE capacity from 32 GW in 2014 to 175 GW by 2022. By January 2021, India had deployed a total of 91 GW of grid-connected renewable (excluding Hydro) electricity capacity. By comparison, India's total installed capacity has reached 377 GW and renewable comprise about 24% of the total installed capacity in the country. In September 2019, the Hon'ble

Prime Minister of India announced that India's electricity mix would eventually include 450 GW of renewable energy capacity.

We are living in strange times owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has introduced unprecedented challenges and has made us realize the importance of a stable, affordable, sustainable, resilient clean and uninterrupted supply of power to meet demand. I would like to mention here that the power demand in India reached an all-time high of 188 GW in the month of January 2021 from the previous high of 183 GW recorded in May 2019.

As far as environmental sustainability is concerned, India stands at the forefront of addressing global challenge of climate change and has committed to an ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of reducing emission intensity by 33-35% in 2030 against the levels of year 2005. India has proactively pursued mitigation and adaptation activities and achieved a reduction in emission intensity of GDP by 24% over the period 2005-2016. Government of India has also been working towards promoting Electric Vehicles to meet multiple objectives like attaining zero emission goals, energy security, energy efficiency. To promote energy efficiency in the country, Government has also undertaken a massive LED bulb distribution programme called the National UJALA programme which aims to provide LED bulbs to domestic consumers.

In the recent budget announcement, Government of India has also launched a new mission focussing on use of Hydrogen in various sectors.

Thank you.
