

MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE OF POWER, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES MINISTERS OF STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES (UTs) HELD ON 3rd & 4th May, 2017 at NEW DELHI

1. The conference of Power, Renewable Energy and Mines Ministers of states and Union Territories was held on 3rd and 4th May, 2017 at New Delhi. The conference was chaired by Hon'ble Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines. The Hon'ble Union Minister of State (IC) extended a warm welcome to the Hon'ble Ministers of Power, New & Renewable Energy and Mines from various states and UTs.
2. Hon'ble Minister stressed upon the need for creation of infrastructure facilities, which are necessary for better quality of life to the masses and especially to the section of the people, which so far have remained deprived of the facilities.
3. Hon'ble Minister stated that so far, five such Power Ministers Conferences have been held, in which there has been a great enthusiasm and each conference has given new resolutions and new success stories to the sectors of economy. Such initiatives are playing an important role in transforming India. With the same enthusiasm, the sixth edition of this prestigious Conference of Power, Renewable Energy and Mines Ministers was being held.
4. Hon'ble Minister mentioned that the Nation is celebrating the birth centenary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Ji and our all-out efforts should be to give a real shape to his ideology. The main essence of his ideology is "that the poorest of the poor should get all the facilities" and it should be our top most priority.
5. Hon'ble Minister reiterated that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has a dream and goal set for us that by 2022, there should be power in every home. This dream needs to be realized even before that. To support our cause, we have to have a greater dependence on Renewable Energy Sources (RES), efficient solar pumps and all other means by optimizing the resources for making the power supply available in the most efficient way.
6. Hon'ble Minister shared the success story of village electrification, which has been accomplished, with a close cooperation of Central Government and the respective State Governments. He mentioned that out of 18452 unelectrified villages identified at one time (when this government assumed charge), now only 4141 villages were remaining to be electrified as on 03.05.2017. He stressed the need to firm up number of villages to be electrified. He also added that there was a need to regularize illegal connections through people's participation. He also cited that some difficulties have been experienced in the way of electrification of unelectrified villages mainly because of difficult

location of the villages, procedural delay in award of work, tendering complexities, lot of paper works etc. In some areas the problem due to Left Wing Extremism (LWE) has also been faced which need to be resolved with the help of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the local authorities.

7. Hon'ble Minister cited the need for transforming India and reshaping the future of India. He also mentioned about the digital initiatives taken by the Ministry towards empowering the consumer through introduction of various apps like Garv, Urja, Vidyut Pravah, Vidyut Mitra etc. He added that such initiatives have established an atmosphere of transparency, healthy criticism and constructive feedback, which is a welcome step.
8. Hon'ble Minister highlighted the noteworthy achievements accomplished by way of feeder segregation through which power supply hours are being rationalized to the agricultural sector. The farmers are happy as they are getting assured hours of supply, fulfilling their requirement of power. Utilities are happy as they are contributing to the maintenance of Grid discipline and are able to supply more number of hours to the consumers other than the agricultural consumers.
9. In wind sector also the auction mechanism is being introduced and recently through this option, the price of wind generation has come down to Rs. 3.46 per unit.
10. Already the success story of auction mechanism has been experienced and established in the field of solar power, where levelized tariff of Rs. 3.30 per unit (with first year tariff of Rs. 2.97 per unit) over a period of 30 years have been achieved.

Address by Secretary (Power)

11. Secretary (P) in his address stated the following:
 - a. Diesel generating sets free India.
 - b. Innovative ways to reduce cost of power including Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR), Pooling of Power from Thermal Stations (NTPC).
 - c. Electrification of remaining 4141 un-electrified villages and ensuring quality power supply.
 - d. Flexibility in utilization of coal, third party sampling of coal.
 - e. Energy Efficiency steps.

24x7 Power for All

12. Dr. A.K. Verma, JS (Dist.), MoP made a presentation. Highlights of the presentation are:
 - Distribution system is the last mile interface with the consumers.

- Electrification of remaining 4141 of un-electrified villages, reaching out to remote, LWE affected and difficult villages, supply of electricity to three to four crore households, removal of contradiction between excess generation capacity and adequate transmission capacity with lack of electricity to ultimate consumer, bridge gap between power supply of rural / urban areas. He stated that all feeders will be metered by December, 2017.
- Engaging local bodies in internal electrification needed to be examined.

Presentation on Strategies and action Plan for 100% household electrification

13. The presentation was made by Shri Dinesh Arora, ED (REC) .The highlights of the presentation are as under:

- Moving towards 100% household electrification.
- States need to freeze the number of uninhabited villages and the villages which need to be electrified in Grid connected mode or Off-Grid mode.
- As far as scope of work is concerned in the DDUGJY and IPDS schemes, 10% deviation in the scope can be approved by the States under their own power. Beyond 10% deviation the utilities need to approach REC and PFC respectively for DDUGJY and IPDS. The approval for such cases will be given in two weeks.
- Arunachal Pradesh stated that because of the litigations, there have been delays in electrification programme and this will be sorted out soon. Most villages in Arunachal Pradesh are suitable candidate for off-grid electrification through solar power.
- Sh. Arora presented the case study also where he highlighted that consumers are ready to take the legal connections provided the procedure of taking the connections gets simplified.
- Hon'ble Union Minister intervened and stressed upon the need of universal electrification and for this endeavor, the utilities can take loans on easy terms from the financing agencies like PFC and REC.
- Hon'ble Union Minister mentioned that the complaint number 1912 is quite helpful in addressing many problems faced by the consumers.
- Participating in the discussion, Secretary (P), Bihar mentioned that they handle the complaints in a fast track mode.

14. The Participants also sought more central help towards strengthening electricity distribution infrastructure. Reacting to this, Hon'ble Union Minister stated that the power is a concurrent subject and distribution system is primarily the responsibility of the States, the Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments through various measures. Power Minister (WB) stressed upon the need of quality power to

the consumers and also sought that more Central help should flow to the States.

15. Secretary (Power) Odisha stated that so far the year 1997 BPL list was being followed for the purpose of electrification. He suggested that SECC 2011 data and definition should be used for counting of the BPL consumers. This will simplify the procedure and speed up the process of electrification.
16. Secretary (Power) Uttarakhand stated that they do not require the fund for feeder segregation and they be allowed to divert the funds approved for feeder segregation to household electrification programme. This request was agreed to by the Hon'ble Union Minister.
17. The participants raised a question whether the electricity connections could be released to domestic consumers on the spot. In this regard, Tamil Nadu stated that they have achieved 100% village electrification and hut connections are permitted 100 units free power per month.
18. Intervening the discussion, Hon'ble Union Minister stated that providing free power to any sector of economy is the choice of the respective state, but in the long run the free power regime may turn out to be worse than the menace of illegal connection.

Presentation on UDAY

19. The Presentation was made by Ms. Ritu Maheswari, E.D., REC on UDAY. The highlights of the presentation are as under:
 - UDAY is a strategic approach to turn around the discoms.
 - So far, 27 States/UTs have joined the UDAY.
 - Target under UDAY is to reduce the AT&C losses to 15%.
 - The gap between ACS and ARR has come down from 57 paisa to 44 paisa at present.
 - There are delays by Government Departments in payment of dues to discoms.
 - Payment of dues by discoms to CPSUs has been reduced and there is 14% reduction in outstanding dues of CPSUs.

Presentation on IT enablement in Distribution, online feeder monitoring and smart metering by Sh. Vishal Kapoor, Director (Distribution), MoP

20. The Presentation was made by by Sh. Vishal Kapoor, Director (Distribution), MoP. The highlights of the presentation are as under:
 - Smart meters deployment offers various advantages and the foremost being the capability of such meters for two way communication.

- All States to ensure that 1912 toll free number for electricity related complaints is made functional and there is an effective closing mechanism for the reported complaints.
- States need to work-out strategies for accelerating the smart metering deployment.
- Appropriate standards on the smart meters and communication system have been brought out by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). In addition to this, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) functional requirement guidelines have also been brought out by CEA in August, 2016.

Power Reforms

21. Ms. Jyoti Arora, JS (Transmission/R&R), Ministry of Power stated that the two presentations will be made which are (i) Merit Order Dispatch and Integration of Renewables (ii) Simplification and Rationalization of Consumer tariffs.
22. It was stated by her the Renewable Energy Sources (RES) enjoys the must run status and to ensure a transparent process of merit order dispatch consultations were held with the stakeholders and the Committee constituted for that has come out with the draft design of online dynamic portal and associated recommendations. The RES rich States like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu were Members of the Committee chaired by Chairperson, CEA.
23. The Tariff Policy, 2016 also provides that the States/Discoms shall follow merit order for procurement of power and there should be uniformity in merit order mechanism. It was highlighted that by saving 10 paise per unit on 1000 MW procurement of power, Rs. 100 crores could be saved over a year. Intervening the discussion, Hon'ble Union Minister stated that UP has entered into banking arrangements with Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to meet the power needs of the respective States, such arrangements will help all concerned in the hours of need.
24. It was a common consensus that in the merit order, must run power sources like nuclear, solar, wind and hydro should come first in the Grid. It was stressed upon that on account of cheaper power available in the exchange, the generation from must run plants should not be affected.
25. It was stated by Hon'ble Minister from Arunachal Pradesh that in the North Eastern States, the SLDCs are not in a very good condition and to be part of the mechanism the SLDCs need to be improved.
26. Representative of BBMB mentioned that the technical minimum load on thermal power stations prescribed by CERC at present is 55%. If this limit is lowered further, than boiler stability, problem may be encountered.

27. Hon'ble Union Minister stated that promotion of RES is with a view to ensure energy security and also to mitigate the climatic challenges, especially to control the pollution from power generating sources.
28. The participants suggested that where fixed charges are involved in RES e.g. generation from Bagasse, such plants should not come under the must run categories.

Presentation on Merit Order Dispatch and Integration of Renewables

29. A Presentation was made by Sh. Vijay Menghani, Director, CEA. In the presentation, he indicated that during the Power Ministers' conference held at Vadodara in Oct, 2016, it was decided to constitute a Committee to examine the status of implementation of Merit Order Dispatch, issues involved therein and for ensuring proper dispatch of renewable energy sources while following the merit order principle. Accordingly, Merit Order Dispatch Committee was constituted in October 2016 with Chairperson, CEA as its Chairperson and Joint Secretary (OM), MoP as its Member Secretary. The Committee had representation from MNRE, CERC, POSOCO and States.
30. Recommendations of the Committee have been prepared with regard to-
 - Transparency in Merit Order operations.
 - Promotion of Renewables through effective implementation of Must Run status of Renewables.
31. He indicated that, Presently, SERCs under Section 86(1)(b) of the Electricity Act, 2003 and Para 8.2.1 of the Tariff Policy 2016, provide that State/Discoms shall follow merit order for power procurement. Most of the states claim to follow merit order operation. However, details in this regard were not transparently available. It was mentioned that there was a need to have a mechanism to quantify deviation from merit order and check its reasonableness. Adherence to merit order optimizes the power procurement cost and benefits both utility and ultimate consumer.
32. Sh. K.V.S. Baba, CEO, POSOCO also made a presentation on the proposed portal being developed on Merit Order Dispatch States were requested to give their feedback to MoP on the same.

Presentation on Simplification and Rationalisation of Consumer Tariffs

33. The presentation was made by Ms. Jyoti Arora, JS (Transmission/R&R), MoP. The highlights of the presentation are as under:
 - Legacy issues of tariff structure from state electricity boards continues.
 - Lack of scientific basis for determining the consumer tariffs.

- Non cost reflective tariffs and high cross subsidies among the consumer categories.
- Complexity of tariff schedules, making it difficult to comprehend for an average consumer leading to rent- seeking.
- Creation of tariff categories based on demand from marginal consumer sections etc. instead of specific needs and requirement
- The number of categories ranges from 36 in Tamil Nadu to 93 in Andhra Pradesh.
- A Committee has come out with a recommendation based on the practice being followed by the countries having similar scenario as that of India and there is certainly a need for rationalization and simplification of consumer tariff.
- There should be Multi Year Tariff (MYT) regime and efficiency should be factored in while fixing the tariff.

Presentation by Secretary (Power), Bihar on simplification of tariff structure-A case study

34. Sh. Pratyaya Amrit, Pr. Secretary (Power), Bihar, made a presentation. The highlights of the presentation are as under:

- A strong political will is required for rationalisation of tariff.
- Convincing the regulator requires a systematic approach.
- Existence of large number of categories provides scope of corruption and arbitrariness – which need to be eliminated.
- In Bihar, ARR for 2017-18 has been approved with zero subsidy, State Government may decide the subsidy amount for consumers of different categories.
- In the regular electricity bills to the consumers the subsidy amount per unit given by the State Governments is indicated in a distinct colour, making the consumer aware of the actual cost per unit of electricity and the amount of subsidy he is receiving.

Success Stories of Subansiri and Teesta Hydro Projects:

35. Hon'ble Union Minister shared the success story that with the help of the Governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, the Subansiri Hydro Project (2000 MW) which was stuck up for quite some time has come back on the track. Another success story he shared about the active cooperation of REC, PFC, PTC and Sikkim Government through which all six units of Teesta-III Hydro Project (1200 MW) have been commissioned, which were languishing for long time.

Thermal Power Sector

36. Shri Aniruddha Kumar, JS (Thermal), MoP stated that, in thermal power sector, many initiatives have been taken, some of them are as under:
- Pooled tariff approach for their thermal power generation has been made by NTPC which will help in ensuring the 24x7 power for all to the consumers.
 - Old thermal power plants which have served for more than 25 years are being planned for phasing out and in place of these plants high efficiency super critical plants to be installed.
 - At present about 80% electricity is generated by coal based plants and ash management is a bigger challenge in power generation.
 - The target is for 100% ash utilization.
 - Regarding ash management, replacement of red bricks by bricks made of fly ash need to be promoted.
 - NITI Aayog has conveyed that as per Environment Protection Act the plants not complying with 100% ash utilization may be instructed to close down. Thus, ash management from TPP assumes a very high level of critical situation.

Presentation on Ash Management System

37. A presentation was made by Sh. Harpreet Singh Pruthi, Director, MOP. The highlights of the presentation are as under:
- Fly ash Disposal is an area of concern considering the fact that about 176 million ton of fly ash is generated every year. At present, fly ash utilization is about 61% of ash generated in the country. About 250 acres of land is required for a 1000 MW thermal power plant for dumping of ash.
 - MoEF has brought out the gazette notification regarding 100% utilization of fly ash.
 - In order to address the problem, there is a need to prepare an Ash Management Plan by every Thermal power plant for achieving 100% utilization.
 - TPPs should conduct awareness campaign to encourage the manufacture of ash based products and use of ash in various activities like construction of road, cement and manufacturing of bricks.
 - Fly ash clusters may be setup by states near the point of use where fly ash can be brought in bulk from TPPs through rail and various products can be manufactured using fly ash as resource material.

- NTPC has conducted trial for transportation of fly ash through BTAP wagon from Rihand TPP to Prism Cement, Satna. This is environmental friendly and reduces transportation costs substantially.
 - There is need to incentivize the manufacture and use of fly ash products through measures like exemption from taxes/duties and incentives for setting up higher capacity machinery
- 38.** Hon'ble Union Minister advised states to study the fly ash clusters setup at Chandrapur, Maharashtra and Angul, Odisha. Hon'ble Minister also advised JS, Ministry of Coal to allot abandoned Coal mines for void filling by fly ash.

Presentation on use of treated sewage water in thermal power plant

- 39.** A presentation was made by Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Kassi , Director (Thermal), MOP. The highlights of the presentation are as under:
- The electricity demand is growing at a rate of 6%. Coal based thermal generation capacity is estimated to reach about 277 GW by the end of year 2027 and will require huge quantity of water for the power plant operation.
 - One unit of electricity (kWh) generated from coal requires about 3 litres of water and at present the annual generation for the thermal power plants is around 950 BU which requires about 2800 million cubic meter / annum (around 7700 MLD). The requirement of water is likely to grow to 12000MLD by the year 2026-27. Difficulties are already being faced in existing thermal power plants due to non-availability of water.
 - To conserve fresh water, Ministry of Power is promoting use of treated sewage water in thermal power plants.
 - Use of treated sewage water by power stations wherever power plants are within a radius of 50 km from the STPs has been made mandatory in the revised Tariff Policy dated 28th January, 2016. Any investment for STP water is already made pass through in the tariff policy and this cost shall be factored into fixed costs so as not to disturb the merit order of such thermal plant.
 - As per CPCB, out of total 62000 MLD (approx.) estimated sewage generation in the country, about 23277 MLD is being treated at present. With the increasing population, high rate of urbanization in coming years and various scheme launched by Govt of India, such, Smart Cities Programme, AMRUT, Natinal Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) sewage treatment capacity will grow further. The large volume of sewage offers tremendous potential for its use in thermal power plants and conserve fresh water for drinking and irrigation purposes.
 - The activity of mapping for power station within the vicinity of 50 km from STPs across the country has been undertaken. The central utility NTPC

has already taken a lead role in this regard and has identified five (5) coal based power stations namely Solapur, Mouda, Meja, Dadri & up-coming Patratu power station for use of treated sewage water to cater to the makeup water requirement and has reached the stage of binding agreement with Solapur municipal corporation for Solapur Power Station.

- Power plants may adopt suitable business model with municipalities for usages of treated sewage water, based on either PPP model with full or partial investment from PPP partner of municipalities/utilities or on EPC model with full investment made by utility alone or municipality alone or both.

Presentation on use of sewage treated water in Koradi Thermal Power Plant-A case study

40. A presentation was made by Shri. V. M. Jaideo, Director (Projects) MSPGCL. The highlights of the presentation are as under:
- Considering the growing power demand, MAHAGENCO decided to expand the existing capacity of Koradi Thermal Power Plant in 2008.
 - Expansion Capacity 1980 MW (3 x 660 MW).
 - Requirement of water for the expansion project is 130 MLD.
 - No additional water allocation was available from the existing Kamptee Khairee Pench Project.
 - By using municipal wastewater as water linkage for Koradi power plants, there is saving of fresh water to the extent of 47 MM³ per annum (which will save fresh drinking water supply to 10 Lakh population).
 - STP of 130 MLD will improve ecology and environment of water bodies i.e. Wainganga River, where un-treated sewage is being presently let-out.
 - Reliable and economical source of water supply for power plant
 - In future, Power Generation from the STP sludge is also envisaged to make the power requirement of STP self sustainable.
41. Hon'ble Union Minister advised states to expeditiously adopt use of treated sewage water in thermal power plants, which will result in saving of precious fresh and increased availability of drinking water.

Energy Conservation

42. Mr. Abhay Bakre, DG, BEE made a presentation on Energy Efficiency. During the presentation, he said that energy efficiency in Agricultural Pump-sets is very important. Agricultural sector is third larger consumer of electricity. Every year, 3-5 lack new pumps are installed and farmers purchase inefficient pumps. In last 10-12 years, share of ground water usage has increased predominantly. He also said that we have constraints such as non-availability

of efficient pumps at village level, inefficient pumps are cheaper etc. We have approximately 650 manufacturers who are manufacturing about 7400 models of efficient star label pump-sets.

43. He emphasized the need to scale up energy efficiency in agricultural sector either through ESCO model or through hybrid model. Six states have notified that any new connection shall mandatorily be installed with star label pumps. As a way forward, it was urged that there should be mandatory star labeling of pump-sets.
44. A presentation was made by Sh. Saurabh Kumar, MD, EESL. The highlights of the presentation are as under:
- Grid connected solar PV pumping solution promotes energy efficiency and contributes towards water table conservation in an economically sustainable manner
 - Reliable power supply in day-time
 - Additional revenue source for savings below benchmark consumption
 - EE pump with free repair and maintenance for the contract period
 - Provide good quality day time power supply to farmers
 - Farmer gets an opportunity to earn additional income
 - Encourages energy and water conservation
 - Fulfilment of RPO
 - Savings due to reduction in AT&C losses
 - No upfront cost for the transmission / distribution network
 - No additional subsidy support required
45. Representative from Maharashtra stated that the farmers in the State are ready to avail the facilities for owning the solar energy pump, but need assurance about after sale service and certification mechanism for energy efficient pump. There is an ample scope for replacement of old inefficient pumps by energy efficient pumps.

Promotion of Digital Payment

46. Joint Secretary, MoP, Ms Anju Bhalla, gave a presentation on Promotion of Digital Payment. It was indicated that MoP has been given a target of -.188 crore digital transactions for 2017-18. The maximum transactions in the power sector would be payments of electricity bills by consumers. Therefore, States/Discoms need to actively promote and facilitate e-payments. She emphasized that there should be transparency in transactions and consumers should be assured a –convenient- and hassle free experience. There should be promotion and publicity for digital payments. The importance of generating

regular monthly bills for better payment compliance was highlighted. She further emphasized that all payments and receipts to employees, contractors, vendors should be made through digital means. Bihar Government has already provided incentive of 1% cash back for online payments. These kind of incentives need to be introduced by all States to promote digital transactions. Another incentive in the form of waiver of convenience charges could be provided as has already been done by Maharashtra, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Gujarat.

Cyber Security

47. A presentation was made by Joint Secretary, MoP, Ms Anju Bhalla, on Cyber Security in power sector. It was emphasized that power sector is a critical infrastructure which has many stakeholders like Gencos, Transcos, DISCOMS, Load Dispatch Centres, etc. Malicious attempts to damage and disrupt computer network system may be done by hostile nations, cyber terrorists and even insiders. With increasing technology convergence, digitization, automation in most of the processes, this issue has assumed significant importance. Therefore, the States need to take Cyber Security very seriously. It was indicated that the institutional mechanism has already been set up at the national level with the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) and also in the power sector in the form of Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs). It was urged that State Governments should resolve to develop Crisis Management Plan at the Plant /Utility level in consultation with the Sectoral CERT by 31st September, 2017 and appoint Chief Information Security Officer by 1st June, 2017. Further, State Governments need to consider conducting quarterly reviews of their Cyber Security measures and also conduct regular security audits of their IT infrastructure through CERT-IN empanelled agencies.
48. Secretary (Power) stated that the states should increase awareness about cyber security issue and advised that CEA should take lead in this direction.

Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

Address by Secretary (NRE)

49. In his address during the session on the “Guidelines for Renewable Energy Projects”, Secretary MNRE detailed the issues regarding achievement of the target of 175 GW by the year 2022. He emphasized that renewable energy are not to be promoted only for cheap electricity but for environmental protection and to combat global warming.
50. He further highlighted the following achievements/issues as regard different components in the renewable sector:

Solar PV

- Highest ever achievement of 5.5 GW of capacity addition during the year 2016-17.

- Second phase of Solar park of capacity 20 GW approved by the Cabinet in view of the success of first phase and more demand.
- Invited the new proposals for second phase of Solar Parks and requested to expedite the completion of already sanctioned solar parks.
- The off-grid solar pump programme will be continued but the Ministry is also looking for grid connected solar pumps.
- Poor progress of Solar Rooftop system due to issues with Discoms such as anxiety of losing good customer is a concern.
- The ministry is finalizing a scheme for farmers to setup PV plant on waste land.
- Ministry is finalizing guidelines for solar power projects which will be announced soon.

Wind Energy

- Highest ever achievement of 5.5 GW of capacity addition during the year 2016-17.
- Significant development in the manufacturing and exporting capacities of Wind Turbine.
- First auction under 1000MW ISTS connected Wind power projects was concluded by SECI at a low discovered tariff of Rs. 3.46/kWh.
- Ministry is considering to set setup demonstration project of Solar-Wind hybrid system and finalize the scheme.
- Consultation with states is required for improving the re-powering policy of wind projects.

Others

- Slow progress of Small Hydro Power, Biomass energy and waste to Energy is a concern.
- To remove bottlenecks and make the implementation of the SHP projects easier and quicker is priority.
- The waste to energy needs to be promoted and for which, RPO for Waste to energy projects may be introduced.

- 51.** Joint Secretary, MNRE gave a presentation on the “Action plan for the year 2017-18” in which the physical progress of different schemes/sectors of the ministry and comprehensive action plan for the year 2017-18 was presented. The features of the guidelines for tariff based competitive bidding process for grid connected solar PV power projects under section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 was also presented in which payment security mechanism was emphasized.

52. Hon'ble Union Minister directed to reduce the target of solar rooftop programme. He urged the states not to block the solar park where there is no progress. It may be allotted to other states. He emphasized the need to support indigenous manufacturing under 'Make in India' programme.
53. The issues raised by various states are as follows:
- Punjab: Farmers should be encouraged to install solar plants through net metering. In daytime, farmers can generate power and feed into grid while at night time, farmers will use power for irrigation. Higher capacities of solar pumps like 10, 20, 25 hp should be allowed.
 - Bihar: Link roof top solar (RTS) programme with education department to install RTS in schools. MGNREGA should be linked to install solar plants on pond side.
 - Assam: Two departments are working on RTS (APDCL and AEDA) and the projects have been sanctioned to both the departments.
 - Tripura: Wants joint venture with SECI to promote grid connected plants
 - Odisha: Benchmark cost fixed by Ministry is low. The CFA will be less than 30% with new benchmark cost.
 - Telangana: RTS are commercially viable and publicity is required. Subsidized loans may be provided to government institutions.
 - Rajasthan: Clarity is required for incentives to install RTS on government buildings
54. During the session the Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) signed for first wind auction scheme and another round of wind auction scheme for 1000 MW was announced.

Ministry of Coal

Address by Additional Secretary (Coal)

55. Additional Secretary (Coal) in his address stated that sufficient domestic coal is available in the country in the last 2-3 years. The co-operation of the State Governments in import substitution was required, in order to make use of the domestic coal and achieve self-sufficiency. He urged states to do analysis as to why there is still import of coal when there was indigenous coal available with the CIL. He also highlighted the various measures taken by Ministry of Coal to improve the quality of coal. These were steps related to re-gradation of coal mines by CCO, invoicing based on sampling results and timely issuance of credit/debit notes based on the results of Third Party Sampling. He underlined that State power generating companies to pay up dues of CIL for the coal that they have already received.

56. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal informed about the status of linkage rationalization of coal, where the Rs 3000 crore savings have been effected on an annual recurring basis. He also mentioned about the policy on Flexibility in Utilisation of Domestic Coal. The five modes of coal transfer under the Flexible Utilization policy were explained and States were urged to make use of these provisions to bring down the cost of power generation by submitting the new coal supply matrix to Coal India Limited. The coal supply position between April 2016 to March 2017 was also presented. He requested States to clear the outstanding undisputed dues of State Genco in a timely manner and the outstanding disputed dues of State Genco should be addressed in ADRM. The constitution, operational mechanism and issues that can be resolved in ADRM were also presented.
57. The details of coal import made by the power sector in 2016-17 were also presented and it was informed that the target for 2017-18 was to completely substitute imported coal, in respect of State and Central Gencos and the IPPs based on domestic coal, with domestic coal. It was informed that CIL shall undertake special drive to understand the need of imported coal based State Gencos (one each in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh) and offer customized solutions for the import substitution or blending. Effort shall be made to substitute up to 30% of imported coal with domestic coal by import based TPPs.

Ministry of Mines

Address by Secretary (Mines)

58. Union Secretary (Mines) gave a brief overview of the mining sector and the key initiatives taken by the Ministry. He highlighted the recent growth in the mining sector. The major reform measures initiated by the MMDR Amendment Act 2015 can be seen to be bearing its fruits. He applauded the efforts of the State Governments in adopting the auctions and till now mineral blocks with estimated resources of Rs 1.03 lakh crore have already been given through auction. This would entail Rs 67,502 crore as additionality to the State governments through auctions, which otherwise, would not have come. The States have already been asked to adopt such transparent mechanisms for the minor minerals. The Mining Surveillance System (MSS) and Star Rating system, the good-governance initiatives of the Ministry would make positive impact in enhancing the sustainability in the mining sector and also improving the public perception of the mining sector. The States may also take up the adoption of these systems in case of minor minerals. He laid stress on the implementation of schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojna (PMKKKY) through the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds. The issues related to Sand mining have been a growing concern in all the States and need to be taken up jointly.

59. Thereafter, Shri Prithul Kumar, Director, Union Ministry of Mines, gave a presentation on (i) e-auctions of mineral blocks; (ii) Transparency, Auction & Resources Augmentation (TAMRA) and mapping of clearances/approvals; (iii) MSS implementation; (iv) Star Rating implementation. He discussed the state wise details of the mineral blocks that were auctioned, currently under auction and those in pipeline for present financial year. He talked about the handholding support given to State Governments by the Central Government agencies -- GSI, IBM, MECL, MECON and SBICAPs offering their technical expertise, for preparation of blocks for auction. He mentioned that the land ownership pattern, i.e. presence of private land, forest land, charagah land, eco-sensitive zones in the block was perceived as major deterrence by bidders. Also, the mineral grade, quality of exploration & geological reports, high reserve price for the ore, high average sale price and end use reservations, have been communicated by the States as being important issues in the auctioning of mineral blocks. He informed that an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted for monitoring and facilitating the requisite approvals and clearances for starting mining in the auctioned blocks. This step would carry forward the ease of doing business. The TAMRA App. and online portal have been developed by the Ministry which would facilitate the online monitoring of clearances and approvals by the IMG.
60. The matter raised by the Hon'ble Minister from States as well as officials of the State Government, state-wise, are as under:
- **Telangana:** The representative of Telangana stated that for bringing more blocks for auction, matter related to compensation of patta land/ agriculture land to be sorted out properly by framing Rules. Union Secretary Mines responded that this issue was thought over earlier and it was decided that private mine owners should be responsible for acquiring patta land and not the States. He requested the States to carry thorough due diligence of evaluating important issues of land ownership/ clearance requirements/ amount of reserves/ grades/ etc. before putting blocks on auction. He illustrated that reserves of a block of limestone should not be less than 100 million tonnes when putting up the block for auction as it would be the least required for a cement plant.
 - **Karnataka:** The representative of State Government of Karnataka stated that pace of exploration of GSI is very slow and therefore causing deterrence in putting more blocks for auction. He also stated that the matter related to amalgamation of blocks after the judgment of Supreme Court through its CEC Committee, needs to be sorted out. Further, for exploration at G3 level, forest department permission is required which causes delays in the process, for which MoEFCC may be persuaded for time bound approval. In this regard, Union Secretary Mines apprised that the issue of approval regarding drilling and boreholes has already been taken up with MoEFCC. He further informed that MECL has been

entrusted with the exploration of 42 blocks cancelled by the Supreme Court, by the State of Karnataka, which are being expedited by MECL to deliver before their respective timelines.

- **Chhattisgarh:** The representative of Chhattisgarh stated that 2 blocks for Bauxite are being prepared for auction, for which the average sale price of metallurgical grade bauxite is required to be notified by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). Representative from IBM informed that the same will be notified after compiling the returns from all State. The representative of Chhattisgarh state also stated that after expiry of the 2 year period from 11.01.2015 as stipulated in 10 A (2)(c) of the amended MMDR Act, 2015, most of the applicants whose applications have *suomotu* lapsed, have approached to their respective High Courts and have brought stay orders from the Hon'ble High Court, and has requested Ministry of Mines that a uniform reply in this regard should be given to State Government so that reply may be filed in the Hon'ble High Court. In this regard, Union Secretary Mines informed that a request for transfer petition has been made to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the process is likely to be completed within one month. The representative of Chhattisgarh also sought for providing for option of auction to be conducted on absolute value bids. Hon'ble Union Minister asked Union Secretary Mines to consider making a provision of option for the States for the purpose of mineral block auctions. The representative of Chhattisgarh was asked to give the detailed proposal specifying the amendment & addition of specific rules along with the justification.
- **Odisha:** Hon'ble Minister of Mines of Odisha requested Ministry of Mines for granting general area relaxation under Section 6 (1) (b) of the MMDR Act, 1957 for the PSUs. He stated area reservation in favour of State PSU i.e. in the name of M/s OMC should be given. Union Secretary Mines stated that by the amendment in the existing MMDR Act, area reservation for case to case basis has been done away. If the States wants area relaxation for particular mineral, they can request Central Government and action would be taken accordingly. The representative of Odisha State also requested that the 2 blocks taken up by MECL for exploration should be funded through NMET funds. Hon'ble Union Minister stated that more agencies are being empaneled for exploration. Union Secretary Mines informed that 14 agencies have already been identified through open tender, the details of which will soon be shared with States. He also informed that, another round for empanelment would be conducted soon.
- **Nagaland:** The Hon'ble Minister of Nagaland stated that in his State, small blocks of coal are available and no mineral other than coal for major mineral is available of auction. He further asked for the provisions being made by the Ministry of Mines in regard to States with small reserves. Union Secretary Mines informed him that small deposit of coal blocks

could be clubbed and auctioned or could be reserved for PSU with prior permission for central Government.

61. Union Secretary Mines requested all State Governments to expedite the mineral auction of the proposed blocks for 2017-18 & continue preparations for 2018-19 and beyond. He further requested that the States should feed data of all the blocks on the TAMRA portal which are to be auctioned and also the status of each of the clearances/approvals for each of the auctioned blocks. The successful bidders may also be asked to feed data on the TAMRA portal with the login-passwords given to them. He further requested that all States are required to get the field verification done of the trigger generated by the MSS within the specified time period of 7 days, through the district level officers. The district wise nodal officers to whom the triggers should be sent may be registered with the MSS. The States to give their commitment to support the Government of India initiative for development of Mining Surveillance System (MSS) for major minerals and also take up the project of Satellite Mapping and Digitization for Minor Minerals. In regard to Star Rating, he requested States to impress upon all mining lessees to fill up the online templates for 2015-16 at the earliest and 2016-17 before 30.06.2017. The system of Star Rating also to be adopted by the State Governments for minor minerals.
62. Thereafter, Mr. Rokhum Lalremruata, then Director, Ministry of Mines gave a presentation on (i) Sand Mining issues; (ii) District Mineral Fund (DMF) & PMKKKY; (iii) minor mineral rules. He stated that Sand Mining comes under the purview of State Government and Rules are made and implemented by respective State Governments. He informed that after the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Deepak Kumar, MoEFCC issued 'Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines' in September 2015 and issued amendment of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated 14-09-2006 on 15-01-2016. He informed about the salient features of the guidelines and policies. He also stated about DMF and its implementation status by the State Government and informed that Tamil Nadu, till date, has not set up DMF.
63. The matters raised by the Hon'ble Minister of States as well as officials of the State Government, state-wise, are as under:
- **Karnataka:** The representative of Karnataka stated that sand availability is a big issue in state due to illegal mining of sand and urged for constitution of committee at central level to look into the sand mining.
 - **Chhattisgarh:** The representative of Chhattisgarh informed that grants of sand mining have been delegated to the panchyat/local body. The representative of state also suggested the alternative for reverse auction in case of sand mining which is to be done after fixing the sale price of sand.

- **Madhya Pradesh:** The representative of Madhya Pradesh stated that e-auction for sand mines is being done in their State. In their State, group has been framed and 25 hectares area for sand mining is being provided per group. By auction of sand mining revenue of Rs 1500 crore has been generated.
 - **Punjab:** Hon'ble Minister of Mines (Punjab) stated that e-auction for sand mines is being done in their State. By auction of sand mining revenue of Rs 170.28 crores has been generated. However, the illegalities in sand mining still persist.
 - **Odisha:** The representative of Odisha state stated that illegal mining especially on sand mining should be managed by uniform coding across India. All States should accept this coding to prevent the interstate movement of material excavated through illegal mining. He further stated that Odisha was the first state to set up DMF and has been implemented in all 30 districts. A medical project as well as pipe water supply in mining affected area under DMF scheme have been initiated.
 - **Jharkhand:** The representative of Jharkhand stated illegal mining especially in sand needs to be dealt seriously by Central Government. Under the DMF Fund, drinking water and toilet is being facilitated in mining affected area.
- 64.** Hon'ble Union Minister also requested that the DMF to be set up in all districts by the States, all contributions to be collected for DMF, identifications and implementation of projects in line with the directions issued by the Central Government under Section 20A in regard to the PMKKKY (Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojna) Scheme. The utilization of funds in DMF may be expedited. The constitution of DMF for Minor Minerals also, to be done by the State Government under section 15A of the MMDR Act. The integration or adoption of the national online portal being developed by the Union Mines Ministry. In regard to snapshot for MSS, which were earlier completed once in three months, Hon'ble Union Minister asked to check the possibility of getting the same done on a monthly basis. With regard to DMF fund, the Union Minister suggested that rather than using small amount of the DMF Fund for small-small projects, it should be used for holistic project such as education/ electricity/ health/ 'Drinking Water', as is being done by Government of Jharkhand. He also applauded Government of Jharkhand for adopting an innovative idea to raise funds from the market through the DMF funds and asked the other states to adopt and also to come forward with similar innovative practices.
- 65.** Hon'ble Union Minister advised that a High-Level Committee under the chairmanship of Union Secretary, Mines with senior officers from the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, may be constituted to study the existing system of sand mining in various States and

suggest a comprehensive sand mining policy/ guidelines as a model for replication by the States. The Committee should also study the status of recent initiatives of Union Ministry of Mines and suggest the way forward for effective implementation of Mining Surveillance System (MSS) and Star Rating of Mines.

66. Union Secretary (Mines) in regard to the use of Mining Surveillance System (MSS) for curbing illegal mining, stated that the States are required to get the field verification done of the trigger generated by the MSS within the specified time period of 7 days, through the district level officers. He also urged the States to take up the implementation of MSS & Star Rating for Minor Minerals. In regard to Minor mineral rules, he stated that transparent systems for grant of mineral concessions for minor minerals have to be adopted by the States, as per the directive issued by the Ministry, under 20A. Three-four states which have already formulated model Minor Mineral Rules may circulate the same to other States for adoption.

Further Points beyond Agenda by some states

- The states impressed on the need for simplification of procedure for release of electricity connections.
- Levy of cess on coal to be reviewed.
- Education Deptts of the states be roped in for installation of roof top solar panels and MGNREGA be extended for undertaking such jobs.
- Maharashtra raised the tier weight issue of railway wagon used for transportation of coal. Shared that their experience of using STP water for thermal power generation is a good practice, saving fresh water for drinking and other purpose.
- Gujarat raised the issue of single RPO in place of separate RPO for wind and solar prevailing at present.
- Madhya Pradesh stated that now several states are power surplus and the power deficit states may avail the surplus power through suitable mechanism.

Concluding Remarks by Hon'ble Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy & Mines

67. While concluding the deliberations at the Conference, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines touched upon the following points:
- This is 6th Power Ministers Conference. We started with a situation of power shortage, coal shortage and transmission constraints. Today we are

in a situation of power surplus, coal surplus and no transmission constraints. In coal, we have already moved from shortage to surplus and our next step should be of superior coal mining. The unsafe and unviable coal mines need to be chased with the help of states. Serving the poor of the country is a continuous journey with cooperation and collaboration of all the stakeholders.

- Appreciated the distribution of 50 crore LED lights and also mentioned that the cost of LED has come down to 1/9 of the initial price of LED.
- Need to achieve 100% rural electrification and household electrification within a stipulated time.
- Could not deliberate much on smart meter and it needs to be deliberated in detail. Assam has already taken the decision to implement the smart meter, UP has given its consent. Manipur has done good work in prepaid metering.
- Any state having interstate transmission requirements may write to Joint Secretary (Trans), MoP. States are requested to implement their transmission schemes through tariff based competitive bidding route so that funds could be put into other welfare schemes of government.
- For promotion of power generation from Renewable Sources, POSOCO/MoP may come out for successful integration plan in to the grid and extension of the grid appropriately.
- In UDAY scheme, some states have done better. To award good performing states, some schemes need to be worked out like supporting these states in implementing underground cabling works as has been done in Varanasi.
- In Power For All, data availability is very much essential. By November, 2017 all the feeders will be metered. This will help in assessing actual number of hours of supply and a correct picture of electrification and supply hours, energy accounting etc.
- RPO compliance needs to be achieved by the states by implementing more and more RE projects.
- MNRE may think of combining the solar and wind power RPO which at present are separate i.e. separate RPO for solar power and separate RPO for wind power.
- Multi year tariff in Chhattisgarh is a welcome step, other states should also follow.
- Action plan needs to be formulated by states for Fly ash disposal and for making available water for TPP from STP(Sewage Treatment Plant) and share the same with Gol.

- Availing new electricity connection should be made easy. States can think of treating electricity connection as occupancy only and not as ownership, as is done by Maharashtra. UP has given new connection through prepaid metering.
- Energy Efficiency to be emphasized upon,
- 90 to 95% of Digital collection of electricity bill to be targeted.
- Renewable Energy Projects to do PPAs and offer their power on the DEEP portal for offtake by other entities.
- We may explore linking of PSDF funds with UDAY scheme and it could be thought that the states who are achieving success in UDAY may be rewarded by funding for underground cabling in their municipal towns.
- Regarding Chhattisgarh proposal of not retiring old units of 25 years and above, if these meet environmental norms the same may be considered to serve further. But going for new supercritical TPP would certainly be beneficial from environment point of view.
- Hydro power has not been discussed in detail but would be done so in the next conference. Few hydro potential States may be invited and HMOSP (I/C) agreed to chair it.
- Pooling of transmission charges may be envisaged as is being planned for thermal power generation by NTPC.
- Coal blocks development need to be taken up at a speedy pace.
- The penalty on renewable rich states on account of deviation settlement mechanism (DSM) need to be relooked. The renewable rich states have to be encouraged and the states not putting RE nor procuring REC/ tying for RE power needs to be penalized.
- AT&C losses of 15% has to be achieved by all the states and the states who have already achieved it needs to aspire for achieving AT&C losses of 6 to 7%.
- People informing about power thefts needs to rewarded.
- Request has been received for reducing the coal price by doing away with Rs 400 per tonne being charged as cess on coal. Rs 400 charged on coal will go for compensating the states which suffers loss in GST regime.

Conference Resolutions

- 68.** Based on the deliberations on the Conference Agenda and major decisions / conclusions arrived at the Conference, a draft of the Conference Resolutions was prepared and circulated in the Conference. Some of the State Governments offered their feedback / observations on the Draft Resolutions at

the Conference itself. In order to seek feedback of all the States on the Draft Resolutions, the same were sent to the State Governments by email seeking their response thereon within one week. The responses received from the State Governments have been appropriately incorporated in the Resolutions finalized.

- 69.** The Conference Resolutions finalized on the above lines are given at **Annexure.**

**CONFERENCE OF POWER, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES
MINISTERS OF STATES/UTs**

Date: 3rd & 4th MAY, 2017

New Delhi

RESOLUTIONS

24X7 POWER for All

1. States resolve to electrify all remaining un-electrified villages sanctioned under ongoing schemes by 31st March, 2018. Special efforts will be made to cover villages in the LWE affected States/Districts.
2. States resolve to ensure access to electricity to 100% households in 18452 villages by 31.12.2018, by motivating households to avail electricity connections with organising camps in these villages for on-spot completion of necessary formalities. It is also resolved to accept the SECC data 'in principle' with one exclusive criteria for providing households connections instead of BPL data under DDUGJY/RGGVY.
3. States resolve to ensure providing electricity access to all the remaining Households which are not included in the present sanctioned village electrification schemes in their state, by 31.03.2019. GoI will endeavor to make available central financial assistance for the purpose.
4. All States resolve to roll out smart meters subject to availability of funds and approval by State Electricity Regulatory Commission in line with the provisions of the National Tariff policy, commitments made under UDAY Scheme, and as per CEA specifications for AMI, within the stipulated timelines, leveraging a mix of strategies such as outright CAPEX purchase, business models, revenue sharing models, lease models etc. The Ministry of Power and it's CPSUs would handhold States in this measure.
5. All States resolve to complete the IPDS IT enablement phase 2 works by the end of March 2018 by expediting their DPRs, NITs and award of works.
6. All States resolve to complete the Rural Feeder monitoring system, being set up either under GOI funds or under their own schemes, and ensure their integration with the National Power Portal by the end of December 2017.
7. All States resolve to make 1912 toll-free for all consumers by end of June, 2017 to enable consumer to lodge grievances, power theft reports, and publicize the number in all advertisements, outreach programs.

POWER REFORMS

MERIT ORDER DISPATCH AND INTEGRATION OF RENEWABLES

8. The States resolve to broadly accept the recommendations of the Committee on Merit Order Dispatch and to bring transparency in their operation of scheduling of power. The framework for must run status for renewables will also be implemented in true spirit as per recommendations of the Committee. Renewable Energy Management Centers (REMG) will be set up in all five (5) RLDCs of the Country.
9. States/Discoms resolve that they will start sharing both monthly merit order data and daily data of declared capacity and energy scheduled from each source on Merit Order Dispatch Portal by 1st June, 2017.

SIMPLIFICATION OF TARIFF CATEGORIES OF CONSUMERS

10. All the States in-principle agree on simplification of tariff categories, subject to state specific special needs, and shall endeavor to make reduction in numbers of consumers tariff categories to improve transparency and efficiency.

THERMAL

11. State Power departments agreed to issue necessary directives to power plants in respective states for submission of ash generation / utilization data regularly to CEA for web based monitoring format. States also agreed to explore possibility of setting up of Ash parks for meaningful utilization of fly ash and employment generation. Further, States agreed to advise local authorities, Government construction agencies of buildings and roads, for utilization of ash and ash based products and discourage use of red bricks, so as to achieve 100% ash utilization by all TPPs located within the State on sustainable basis. States requested Coal India / subsidiaries to earmark coal mines areas for disposal of ash by power plants which was agreed to.
12. All utilities to endeavor adopting use of treated sewage water from STPs to reduce dependence on water bodies and ensure compliance of Tariff Policy resolution dated 28th January, 2016.
13. Concept of fixed charge pooling is agreed 'in principle'. Implementation plan to be worked out in consultation with Stakeholders to roll out the fixed charge pooling by 01.04.2018.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

14. Implementation of statewide regulatory mechanism to mandate the use of BEE star labeled pump sets for every new agriculture pump connection.
15. Implementation of Agriculture Demand Side Management projects in large scale through ESCO model.

16. Countrywide farmers training session on energy efficiency and energy conservation in agricultural pump-sets.

CYBER SECURITY AND PROMOTION OF DIGITAL PAYMENTS

CYBER SECURITY

17. States to resolve and develop Crisis Management Plan at State/utility level in consultation with Sectoral CERT and CERT-In by September, 2017.
18. States to resolve and consider quarterly review of the Cyber Security. The status report be shared with concerned Sectoral CERTs.
19. It was resolved that CEA would coordinate initiatives for imparting trainings and certified auditing of Cyber Security. Further NPTI & CPRI are starting the training programme in this field. States resolves to take advantage of these facilities.
20. States to resolve and consider regular audit of Cyber Security preparedness including plant level to be conducted by CERT-In empanelled agency and report the progress every quarter.
21. States to resolve and consider to conduct Mock Drills for executing periodic disaster recovery/simulation exercises and report the progress to the respective sectoral CERT.
22. States to resolve and consider nominating Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) by 1st June, 2017.

PAYMENTS THROUGH DIGITAL PAYMENTS

23. States to resolve and consider the convenience fee/ Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) for the usage of digital payment modes to be subsumed as part of the tariff structure itself and should not be charged to customers by 1st July, 2017.
24. States to resolve and consider State Utilities/Discoms to give cash incentive when payments are done digitally by 30th June, 2017. Cash incentive by DISCOMS for payment done digitally will be verified by the regulators.
25. States to resolve and consider online payment mechanism through website of Discom/Utility/Power Department and the same to be developed by 31st July, 2017.
26. States to resolve and consider Promotion /Publicity of these initiatives on various platforms like audio-visual, social media, print etc.. Also the same may be got printed on the bill itself by 31st July, 2017.
27. States to resolve and consider State Utilities/Discoms which are not yet making payments to its employees, contractors/sub-contractors and vendors through electronic mode must be done through electronic modes only by 31st July, 2017.

NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

28. It is resolved to identify potentially rich areas for installation of Renewable Energy Projects and carry out advance planning for evacuation and transmission of Renewable Power.
29. It is resolved to take up the matter with State Regulatory Commission for RPO Compliance by aligning the State share of renewable energy and by aligning RPO level as suggested in the revised Tariff Policy and long term RPO trajectory as declared by the Ministry of Power on 22 July 2016.
30. It is resolved that to promote competitive procurement of electricity, promote consumer interests, facilitate transparency and fairness in procurement processes, provide standardization and uniformity in processes and a risk-sharing framework between various stakeholders involved in the power procurement, the Standard Bidding Framework being prepared by Ministry of New & Renewable Energy for solar and wind power will be followed.
31. It is resolved to fulfill target of 15000 MW solar power installation during 2017-18 with States/UTs taking up bidding for setting up of these power plants and also signing PPAs/PSAs as may be required.
32. It is resolved to tender out an additional capacity of 20000 MW of solar with the States/UTs undertaking bidding for 70% of this target in this financial year.
33. It is resolved to submit proposals for additional solar parks of 20,000 MW to meet the enhanced target of 40,000 MW under Solar Park Scheme. States/UTs will submit new proposal for parks after due diligence and will ensure speedy implementation of Solar Parks and Canal top projects. It is resolved the target of 40000 MW of Solar rooftop to 20000 MW.
34. It is resolved that bids for Solar and wind projects will be structured as per the new bidding guidelines with features such as payment security mechanism, assured off-take etc.
35. It is reaffirmed that R.E. projects except the RE projects in whose case fixed cost component and energy components are clearly specified in the tariff, as must-run projects and, therefore, will not be backed down in case of excess generation subject to GRID Security.
36. It is resolved that Discoms should take lead role in expansion of Rooftop Solar projects and will therefore, streamline their processes and develop online portal to provide grid connection and to bring Chief Electrical Inspector, SNA and Banks on one platform.

37. It was resolved that additional 6 GW wind power capacity should be achieved during 2017-18. States/ UTs should indicate their requirements of purchasing wind power to fulfill their non-solar RPO obligations in advance to facilitate timely auction of the projects.
38. The States/UTs shall evolve a mechanism for timely payment to RE power generators and will ensure that in no case the delay is more than 2 months.
39. The State shall start forecasting and scheduling of RE power either by utilizing the services of NIWE or any other agency. Metering and communication infrastructure shall be installed at all pooling stations for real time generation of data.
40. The States/UTs shall finalize and notify the regulation for scheduling and forecasting for intra-state transmission of solar and wind power.
41. It is resolved that states will make every effort to tap the entire small hydro potential by forming conducive policy environment.
42. It is resolved that states will provide their funds for solar pump programme and will follow uniformly standard bid documents for tendering purpose.
43. It is resolved that States/UTs should aggressively undertake waste to energy, Biogas and Biomass based power projects to mitigate adverse impacts of climate change and to promote additional source of revenue to sugar mills/ agricultural market/rice mills and to meet RPOs.

COAL RELATED ISSUES

44. 372.85 MT of coal has been aggregated in the spirit of the policy of Flexibility in Utilization of Domestic Coal. Thermal Power plants shall endeavor to submit TPP wise supply matrix to make use of coal more efficiently.
45. Coal Import by Public Sector TPP based on domestic coal shall be reduced to zero. States shall also endeavor to reduce coal import by Independent Power Producers (IPPs) based on domestic coal.

MINES

46. Auction Preparedness of blocks for 2017-18 already under preparation by the States. The State Governments to give commitments to complete the mineral auction of the proposed 82 blocks for 2017-18 and further expedite the mineral auction preparedness for 2018-19 and beyond.
47. Status of project implementation under Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)–The DMF to be set up in all districts by the States, all contributions to be collected for DMF, identifications and implementation of projects in line with the directions issued by the Central Government under Section 20A in regard to the PMKKKY (Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kalyan Yojna) Scheme. The DMF constitution for Minor Minerals also to be done by the State

Government. The integration or adoption of the national online portal being developed by the union mines ministry.

48. Curbing Illegal Mining through Mining Surveillance System (MSS) - The States are required to get the field verification done of the trigger generated by the MSS within the specified time period of 7 days, through the district level officers. The district wise nodal officers to whom the triggers should be sent may be registered with the MSS. The States to give their commitment to support the Government of India initiative of development of Mining Surveillance System (MSS) for major minerals and also take up the project of Satellite Mapping and Digitization for Minor Minerals.
49. Star Rating- States to impress upon all mining lessees to fill up the online templates for 2015-16 at the earliest and 2016-17 before 30.06.2017. The system of Star Rating also to be adopted by the State Governments for minor minerals.
50. Minor mineral rules –Transparent systems for grant of mineral concessions for minor minerals have to be adopted by the States, as to the directive issued by the Ministry, under 20A.
51. Steps required to be taken for prevention of illegal mining of sand –The rampant illegal mining in sand needs to be curbed. A time bound action plan of curbing the illegal mining of sand needs to be implemented. The advanced technologies such as Space technology based MSS, UAVs / Drones may also be adopted.
