



Info Capsule

1ST TIME INDIA BECOMES NET EXPORTER OF ELECTRICITY¹

As per Central Electricity Authority, the Designated Authority of Government of India for Cross Border Trade of Electricity, 1st time India has turned around from a net importer of electricity to Net Exporter of electricity. During the current year 2016-17 (April to February 2017), India has exported around 5,798 Million Units to Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar which is 213 Million units more than the import of around 5,585 Million units from Bhutan. Export to Nepal and Bangladesh increased 2.5 and 2.8 times respectively in last three years.

Ever since the cross border trade of electricity started in mid-Eighties, India has been importing power from Bhutan and marginally exporting to Nepal in radial mode at 33 kV and 132 kV from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. On an average Bhutan has been supplying around 5,000- 5500 Million units to India.

India had also been exporting around 190 MW power to Nepal over 12 cross border interconnections at 11kV, 33kV and 132 kV level. The export of power to Nepal further increased by around 145 MW with commissioning of Muzaffarpur (India)- Dhalkhebar (Nepal) 400kV line (being operated at 132 kV) in 2016.

Export of power to Bangladesh from India got further boost with commissioning of 1st cross border Interconnection between Baharampur in India and Bheramara in Bangladesh at 400kV in September 2013. It was further augmented by commissioning of 2nd cross border Interconnection between Surjyamaninagar (Tripura) in India and South Comilla in Bangladesh. At present around 600 MW power is being exported to Bangladesh.

Export of power to Nepal is expected to increase by around 145 MW shortly over 132 kV Katiya (Bihar)- Kusaha (Nepal) and 132 kV Raxaul (Bihar)- Parwanipur (Nepal).

A few more cross border links with neighbouring countries are in pipe line which would further increase export of Power.

¹ Available at: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=0>

GUJARAT FAR AHEAD OF OTHER STATES IN CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES FOR URBAN POOR²

Gujarat is far ahead of other States in construction of affordable houses for urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on June 25, 2015. In Gujarat, 25,873 houses have so far been built for the benefit of urban poor accounting for 32% of the total 82,048 such houses built under PMAY (Urban) in 30 States and Union Territories.

According to the written information furnished by Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu in reply to a Starred Question in Rajya Sabha today, Gujarat is followed by Rajasthan with 10,805 houses constructed so far (13.17% of total), Karnataka-10,447 (12.70%), Tamil Nadu- 6,940 (8.00%), Maharashtra-5,506 (6.70%), Uttar Pradesh-3,822 (4.65%), Madhya Pradesh-2,666 (3%), Bihar-2,409 (2.90%), Jammu & Kashmir-1,986 (2.42%) and Andhra Pradesh -1,650 houses accounting for 2% of the total houses so far built.

City-wise, Ahmadabad led others with construction of 10,183 followed by Jaipur-7,434, Surat-5,216, Rajkot-3,817, Bengaluru-3,428, Vadodara-1,665, Gaya-1,334, Tumkur (Karnataka)-1,286, Chennai-1,279, Gulbaraga (Karnataka)-1,203, Jamnagar(Gujarat)-1,111, Dhanbad-1,156, Visakhapatnam-1,094, Alwar(Rajasthan)-883 and Rai Bareli (UP)-802.

Under PMAY (Urban), beneficiaries belonging to Economically Weaker Sections, Low Income Groups and Middle Income Groups under the components of In-Situ Slum Redevelopment, Affordable Housing in Partnership, Beneficiary Led Construction and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme.

Central assistance of up to Rs.1.00 lakh is provided for each dwelling unit to be built for the benefit of slum dwellers using land as resource there by slum dwellers getting new pucca houses free of cost. Central assistance of Rs.1.50 lakh per each beneficiary is provided under AHP and BLC components while interest subsidy of 6.50% is extended under CLSS for LIG and interest subsidy of 3% and 4% under recently announced CLSS for Middle Income Groups.

During the last three years, 3.55 lakh affordable houses have been constructed for urban poor including those sanctioned under JNNURM prior to March, 2014.

GOODS & SERVICES TAX

Lok Sabha passed four supplementary Bills of GST last evening i.e.,

- Central GST Bill, 2017
- The Integrated GST Bill, 2017
- Union Territory GST Bill, 2017
- GST (Compensation to States) Bill, 2017

The GST Bills have been introduced as Money Bills and hence would be smoothly passed in the upper house of Parliament. Rajya Sabha may recommend amendments which may or may not be considered by the Lok Sabha. The Bills will finally move to the President for assent which will rapidly usher the new regime most likely from July 1, 2017.

² Available at: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=0>

The GST Council will soon roll out the fitment of goods into the rate slab and will bring out the final rules relating to GST.

AADHAAR IDENTIFICATION FOR MDMS³

Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is covered under the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016. A notification has been published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) dated 28th February, 2017 which came into effect in all States and Union Territories except in the States of Assam, Meghalaya and the State of Jammu & Kashmir. As per the notification, the beneficiaries are required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication and if not enrolled for Aadhaar, shall have to apply for Aadhaar enrolment by 30th June, 2017 provided that till the time Aadhaar is assigned to the individual, he/she shall be entitled for benefit subject to the production of the following identification documents, namely:

- (i) If he or she has enrolled, his or her Aadhaar Enrolment Id slip; or
- (ii) A copy of his or her application made for Aadhaar Enrolment and an undertaking by the parent or legal guardian that the child is not availing benefit from any other school and any one of the documents mentioned in the notification.

The use of Aadhaar as identity document would not affect the health of the children as it brings in transparency and efficiency for delivery of services or benefits or subsidies, simplifies the Government delivery processes and enables beneficiaries to get their entitlements directly to them in a convenient and seamless manner. The Aadhaar also obviates the need for producing multiple documents to prove one's identity.

This information was given by the Minister of State (HRD), Shri Upendra Kushwaha today in a written reply to a Rajya Sabha question.

Team ICSI

Disclaimer : The information in the Info Capsules is developed according to the information available in public domain and for academic purposes only. Any person wishing to act on the basis of this document should do so only after cross checking with the original source.

³ Available at: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=0>