

Note on Cooperation with Myanmar in Development of Hydropower Projects

1. Myanmar has a huge hydro potential of about 100,000 MW, out of which about 39720 MW has been identified for development. Myanmar's major rivers run roughly north-south and include the Irrawaddy, the Chindwin (chief tributary of the Irrawaddy), the Sittang and the Salween, the longest undammed river in Southeast Asia.

The total capacity of hydropower projects in Myanmar in July, 2008 was about 1457 MW with likely hydro capacity addition of the order of 245 MW, 1103 MW and 340 MW during the years 2008, 2009 & 2010 respectively (<http://www.mmmtimes.com/feature/energy08/eng005.htm>)

2. Brief status of Hydropower Projects proposed to be developed in Myanmar with Indian Assistance:

- 2.1 In Sept. 2008, an MoU was signed between NHPC and Deptt. of Hydro Power Implementation (DHPI), MoEP to study and appraise the Feasibility Report of Tamanthi (1200 MW) prepared by M/s. Colenco Power Engineering, Switzerland and Shwezaye (642 MW) prepared by Kansai Electric Power Company, Japan and suggest modifications & additional studies required for establishing the techno-commercial viability. Review Reports for these projects have been submitted by NHPC in Dec., 08 indicating additional/ confirmatory investigations essentially required for establishing the techno-commercial viability of these projects for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) which were accepted by DHPI, Myanmar in May, 2009.
- 2.2 Subsequently, agreement was signed between MEA and NHPC in Jan., 2010 for undertaking additional/ confirmatory investigations & preparation of DPRs of Tamanthi and Shwezaye projects at a cost of Rs. 20 Crores each and a time schedule of 18 months.
- 2.3 Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Tamanthi Project was prepared by NHPC in Oct., 2011 which was appraised/approved by CEA in the Special Authority Meeting held on 13.09.2012 for a total cost of Rs. 17270.69 Crs. at Aug., 2011 Price Level with levelised tariff as Rs. 6.46/unit.
- 2.4 DPR for Shwezaye H.E Project (880 MW) was prepared/submitted by NHPC in April 2012 at a total cost of Rs. 18025.93 Crs. at March, 2012 PL with levelised tariff as Rs. 9.34/kWh. However, the same could not be finalized due to geological constraints, project location in seismically active terrain, possibility of presence of volcanic crater below dam foundation etc.
- 2.5 Implementation of Tamanthi and Shwezaye H.E Projects, has since been suspended by Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP), Myanmar due to their perceived Social and environmental impacts and their economic unviability.
- 2.6 Further, Preliminary Assessment Study (PAS) of Thaukyegat (1) Hydro Power Project (90 MW) has been prepared with Indian assistance. As per PAS, Thaukyegat (1) Hydro power project is proposed to be located on Thaukyegat River, a tributary of Sittaung river about 22 km upstream of the existing Thukye gat (2) HEP (3x40 MW) commissioned by CMEC in March, 2013. The project envisages construction of 90 m high dam with storage capacity of 178 MCM between the FRL (215 M), and the MDDL

(194 M) with installed capacity as 90 MW (3x30 MW) and annual energy generation of 468 MU.

3. A Joint Technical Team-Generation (JTT-G) has been constituted by MoP vide OM No. 9/4/2017-Trans dated 15.10.2018 to study the need for construction of new generating stations and renovation of existing generating stations in both countries. The 1st meeting of JTT-G was held on 18 Feb' 2019 in Myanmar to discuss the opportunity of interconnection and power exchange between India and Myanmar. Further, a meeting under chairmanship of Chief Engineer (Trans) was taken on 08 April 2019 to review the progress made on the decision taken in 2nd meeting of JWG on India-Myanmar Cooperation in Power Sector.
4. 3rd Joint Working Group (JWG) and Joint Steering Committee (JSC) Meeting between India and Myanmar on Corporation in power sector was held on 03 Sept' 2020.