

State works on transmission system

# Assam betters power network

OUR SPECIAL  
CORRESPONDENT

**Guwahati, Dec. 8:** Assam has begun work on developing its transmission system to absorb and evacuate power from the upcoming electricity projects.

A power department official said the state transmission system is being proportionately strengthened to absorb and evacuate power from a number of projects which will be commissioned in the next few years.

The source said the Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Limited has built the infrastructure at Rangia for evacuation of power from Kurichhu power project in Bhutan.

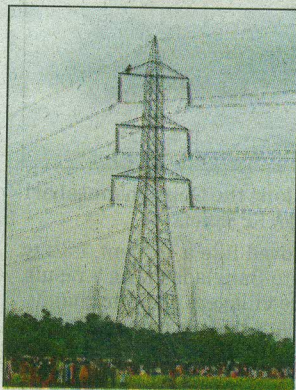
"The state has now requested the Centre to allocate Assam's share of power from this project," the source said.

The issue was also discussed at the 12th North Eastern Regional Power Committee meeting last month in Amritsar.

States of the Northeast deliberated on the status of their power and transmission systems and the efforts being made to prepare such systems for the upcoming projects.

At present, Assam is maintaining a transmission network of 4764.36 circuit km along with 51 substations.

The transmission system is consistently maintained at



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an availability of above 98 per cent which is on a par with the national standard.

Transmission loss has been brought down to 4.81 per cent in 2010-11.

Work has already started for the 400/220kV sub-station at Mirza in Kamrup district, linking it to 400kV Palatana-Silchar-Bongaigaon line (both funded by the Assam government) for Palatana project at Tripura.

For providing start-up power to NTPC's Bongaigaon thermal power project, two 220kV lines are under construction at 220KV Salakati sub-station of the Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Limited.

"It should be our endeavour to remove all hurdles and move forward with a view to commission the projects and

complete the evacuation system at the earliest," the source said.

The 726.6MW Palatana project, being implemented by the North East Transmission Company Limited, should be commissioned by April next year if it gets forest clearances on time.

The NTPC project at Bongaigaon is slated for commissioning next year while the Subansiri project is getting delayed.

Assam gets 240MW from Palatana project, and will receive 300MW from Bongaigaon project.

The allocation from 2,000MW Subansiri project has still not been taken into account.

To cater to the need of improving the transmission system and meeting power requirements of the both the industrial and rural sectors in the state, a number of transmission projects have been undertaken with funding from the ADB, the NEC and other organisations.

With ADB funding, 343.5km will be added to 220KV transmission lines, and 162km will be added to 132KV transmission lines.

In order to improve the communication network, optical ground wire is being laid on a 460km network in addition to the existing transmission lines.