

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2004  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2015**

**BILATERAL ENERGY COOPERATION WITH SAARC**

**2004. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:  
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:**

**Will the Minister of POWER  
be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the SAARC Nations with whom India have bilateral energy cooperation along with terms of agreement;**
- (b) whether there is any proposal to enter into any agreement regarding power with SAARC Nations;**
- (c) if so, whether any plan/strategy has been finalized in this regard;**
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and**
- (e) the Nations with whom similar cooperation is under consideration and the time by which the same is likely to be finalised?**

**A N S W E R**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER,  
COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**( SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL )**

**(a) : The details are at Annex.**

**(b) to (e) : At present, there is no proposal to enter into an agreement with any other SAARC Nations. However, a draft Memorandum of Understanding between Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on cooperation in the bilateral electricity trade was shared with Pakistan in 2014 through Ministry of External Affairs. The response of Pakistan is still awaited.**

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**ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2004 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 10.12.2015.**

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**The details of the SAARC Nations with whom India have bilateral energy cooperation along with terms of agreement**

**Bangladesh -** An MoU was signed between the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) and the Government of India (GoI) on 11th January 2010 on cooperation in power generation, transmission, energy efficiency and development of various types of renewable energy. In October, 2013, a cross border interconnection was established between India and Bangladesh. Presently, Bangladesh is importing 500 MW electricity from India through interconnection.

Further, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) signed an MoU for cooperation in power sector with Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDP). Under this MoU, the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Pvt. Ltd. (BIFPCL), a 50:50 Joint Venture between NTPC and BPDP has been incorporated in Dhaka, Bangladesh for developing a 1320 (2x660) MW power project at Rampal, District Bagerhat in Khulna division.

**Bhutan -** India and Bhutan signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of hydropower in July 2006. Government of India has constructed three Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs) viz. Chukha, Kurichhu and Tala in Bhutan, with total installed capacity of 1416 MW that are supplying electricity to India under their respective bilateral agreements. Three projects totalling 2940 MW (1200 MW Punatsangchu-I, 1020 MW Punatsangchu-II and 720 MW Mangdechu HEPs) are currently under construction. Another four HEPs totalling 2120 MW (600 MW Kholongchhu, 180 MW Bunakha, 570 MW Wangchu and 770 MW Chamkarchu) have been identified for construction under the Joint Venture mode.

**Nepal -** India and Nepal have a Power Exchange Agreement since 1971 for meeting power requirements of the two countries. 132 KV, 33 KV and 11KV transmission interconnections are used for power trade.

A bilateral Agreement on "Electric Power Trade, Cross-Border Transmission Interconnection and Grid Connectivity" was signed on 21st October, 2014 in Kathmandu.

Project Development Agreements for the 900 MW Upper Karnali HEP by M/s GMR and the 900 MW Arun-III HEP by M/s SJVN were signed in September and November 2014 respectively. The Pancheshwar Development Authority for the 5600 MW multi-purpose project was constituted in August 2014.

**Sri Lanka -** An MoU was signed among Government of India, Government of Sri Lanka, PGCIL and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) on 9.6.2010 for carrying out feasibility study for interconnection of India-Sri Lanka Electricity Grids. PGCIL and CEB, Sri Lanka were appointed as executing agencies for the above project.

**The feasibility study was carried out and a report for 360 km long 2x500 MW HVDC bipole line, including 120km long submarine cable, between Madurai (India) and New Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka) was prepared. Subsequently, another study was also carried out for an alternative route to reduce the length of submarine cable thereby reducing the overall project cost of the interconnection. However, Government of Tamil Nadu had expressed reservations about this project.**

**Further, a Joint Venture Agreement has been signed between NTPC and Ceylon Electricity Board(CEB) on 6th September 2011, and a JV Company by the name "Trincomalee Power Company Limited(TPCL)" has been incorporated in Colombo, for setting up a 2x250 MW coal based power project near Trincomalee, Sri Lanka with 50:50 equity investments by the promoters.**

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