Three Years' Achievements & Initiatives of the Ministries of Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines

Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal, addressed the media on achievements of Ministries under his charge in the last three years, here today. Shri Goyal also interacted with the media present at 7 cities – Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhubaneshwar, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow and Patna - through video conferencing.

Shri Goyal informed that achieving the Mission of **24x7 Affordable Clean 'Power for All'** and ensuring the optimum utilization of natural resources for national development are very critical to **'Ujwal Bharat'** which will help in realizing Prime Minister of India, **Shri Narendra Modi's vision of New India**. Over the past three years, the Ministries of Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines have made considerable progress towards achieving this goal.

The Minister talked about how the four Ministries have worked on **6 fundamental principles** to achieve the goal of Ujwal Bharat. These are **SULABH** (Accesible Power), **SASTI** (Cheap Power), **SWACHH** (Clean Power), **SUNIYOJIT** (Well Planned Infrastructure; Preparing India for the Future), **SUNISHCHIT** (Assured Power for All) and **SURAKSHIT** (Empowering each Citizen of India with Transparent Governance and Securing their Future).

Shri Goyal laid emphasis that all the stakeholders concerned with the four sectors, viz., Union Government, State Governments, Power sector players (Public and Private), Mining Sector participants and investors, consumers, citizens etc have to work in coordination, with the sole aim of SEWA (Service) to each citizen of India.

Detailing out the major achievements of the four Ministries in brief, Shri Goyal enumerated the following below:

Coal

To ensure **adequate coal for electricity**, **shortage to surplus,** Government has set a goal to produce 100 crore tonnes of domestic coal by 2019-20. The 9.2 crore tonne increase in production of coal in the three years since 2014. This increase took about seven years before 2014. While nearly two-thirds of the power plants were reeling critical coal stocks in 2014, there is no shortage of coal now. Through **reduced coal imports** to make the nation self-reliant, foreign exchange worth Rs. 25,900 crores have been saved.

The principle of **"less coal for more power"** has yielded results. In 2016-17, 0.63 kgs of coal was used to produce 1 kWh of electricity (specific coal consumption), versus 0.69 kgs in 2013-2014, a reduction of 8%. This ensures cheaper as well as cleaner electricity. Further, **coal linkage rationalization** of 4 crore tonnes of coal will result in potential savings of about Rs. 3,000 crores.

Power

All States have signed the **'Power for All' agreements** highlighting Government's commitment to the principle of Cooperative Federalism. **SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India)** is a transformational policy for auction and allotment of coal linkages and will lead to affordable power, access to coal and accountability in the allocation of coal. The **Mega Power Policy** will facilitate competitive bidding for future Power Purchase Agreements and ensure long term project viability.

The **highest ever 60GW addition in conventional power**, about 40% increase in transformation capacity, and over one-fourth increase in transmission lines since April 2014-March 2017, have made India a power surplus country, with no shortage of electricity or coal. **'One Nation, One Grid, One Price'** was further strengthened

with surplus electricity available at affordable rates for States. For the first time, India became a **net exporter of electricity** in 2016-17.

UDAY (Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana), as a comprehensive reform of the distribution sector saw progress, with savings of nearly Rs. 12,000 crores for DISCOMs due to issuance of UDAY Bonds worth Rs. 2.32 lakh crore. These savings will help in providing affordable power to consumers. Through reforms, India's ranking in **'Ease of Getting Electricity'** by the World Bank rose from 99 in 2015 to 26 in 2017.

Government is driven by **'Antyodaya'** - serving the last man at the bottom of the pyramid, based on the philosophy of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. The birth centenary year of this great philosopher, humanist and nationalist is being commemorated as **Garib Kalyan Varsh**. The flagship scheme for rural electrification (DDUGJY - Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana) has received special attention. Less than 4,000 of the 18,452 remaining un-electrified villages (as of 1st April 2015) remain, and will be electrified by May 2018. To ensure light in not just every village but every home, the Government has set the target of electrifying every household by 2022. About 4.5 crore rural households remain, as per data submitted by the States.

India has received world recognition for its **energy efficiency initiatives**. More than 23 crore LED bulbs have been distributed under UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Electricity for All), and this has served a twofold purpose - helped save Rs. 12,400 crores in electricity bills, and reduced CO_2 emissions by over 2.5 crore tonnes annually.

New & Renewable Energy

As declared emphatically by the Prime Minister of India remains fully committed to protecting the environment, which is an Article of Faith for us. In 2016-17, India crossed major milestones in the mission of achieving 175 GW of renewable power by 2022. By introducing competitive bidding, Government has ensured that renewable energy is affordable and attractive for consumers. 2016-17 saw the lowest tariffs in both solar (Rs. 2.44) and wind (Rs. 3.46) energy. In a groundbreaking development, 2016-17 also marks the first year when net capacity addition of renewable energy was higher than that conventional energy. The past year also saw the **highest ever addition of solar and wind power.**

Mining

Through a combination of sound policy and technology, the Government has embarked on a plan to bring transparency to the mining sector and optimize utilization of natural resources. The National Mineral Exploration Policy 2016 aims to accelerate exploration through National Aero-Geophysical Mapping Project, which will acquire data on 27 lakh line kms of aero-geophysical data by 2019, versus 7 lakh line kms in the last 30 years. Amending the legislative framework for allotment of offshore blocks will kick start offshore mining activity. Transparent auction of 24 mineral blocks will lead to estimated revenue of over Rs. 1 lakh crore to the States over the lease period of the mines. Using space technology, the **Mining Surveillance System (MSS)** acts as an eye in the sky to check illegal mining.

To ensure that people affected by mining benefit from this activity, Government has started **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY),** which has already covered 11 out of 12 mineral-rich states. The **District Mineral Foundation (DMF)** under PMKKKY has collected about Rs. 7,150 crores from mining in 2016-17, which will be used for education, healthcare and welfare measures specifically for mining affected people and areas.

Accountability and Transparency through Mobile Apps

Government is also operating under the highest standards of transparency and accountability, with **'consumer is king'**, at the heart of all efforts. The launch of various apps to track the functioning of various departments and schemes is part of this. Some of the apps launched in the past year include URJA to track electricity situation in urban areas and the progress of the Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), TARANG to track transmission projects and URJA MITRA for power cut information. All the apps of the four Ministries can be downloaded by giving a missed call number to **18002003004**.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Shri P.K. Pujari, Secretary Power, Shri Susheel Kumar, Secretary Coal, Shri Arun Kumar, Secretary, Mines and other senior officers of the four Ministries and PSUs under them.

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