

Brief Note

Hydro Project Commissioned by KREDA in the Second Coldest Inhabited Place on the Globe:

Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA) has successfully commissioned a 1.5 MW Small Hydro Project in Biaras Drass. The project is one of the seven SHPs being sanctioned to KREDA under the Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative (LREI) program of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), GoI. Kargil is endowed with enormous economically exploitable and viable hydro potential. Development of these SHPs under KREDA shall bring much relief to the Power Development Department (PDD). Development of these hydel projects can provide a solution for the energy problems in remote and hilly areas like, Drass, Zaskar, and Kargil. Few years back, KREDA – Kargil, moved with the objectives of “planning, investigation, design and preparation of Detailed Project Reports and subsequently executed the project with the financial support from MNRE. KREDA decided to utilize the water released from existing Biaras Nala for setting up of Small Hydro Electric Project under the renewable energy program (LREI).

Drass Kargil is one of the most beautiful lands where earth and sky seem to meet. The Biaras Small Hydro Power Plant, recently commissioned, is supplying electricity to local community living in the local villages and Dras Town. Nearby, beneficiary villages are Biaras, Goshan, Bazar, Holiyal, Ranbirpora, Muradbag, Yulboo, Lhamochan, Trongjein, Haripora, Fravo, Mushko etc. connected through four feeders. Defence establishments, GREF and other government organisations located in the area are also the targeted beneficiaries to get power from the Project. The project is envisaged to generate 1500 KW of power which will generate about 12.46 MUs of electrical energy annually. The surplus power can be fed into the newly established grid.

Scenario of Drass on the eve of the Biaras SHP:

Nearly entire permanent population remains engaged in agriculture. At the same time more than one fourth population works as unskilled labourer with BRO, Army, civil contractors locally as well as in other parts of this region. Around 1% of the population is employed in Govt. sector. Small percentage of population is also engaged in the tourist and transportation industry. Branches of willow and poplar trees, local thorny shrubs and cattle dung are used as fuel for heating and cooking food. Part of cultivable land is having facilities of irrigation and a major chunk remains un-irrigated, which can be made fertile by using lift irrigation in case power is made available to such schemes.

Benefits:

The project will provide stable electricity supply to the neighbouring villages in an otherwise unelectrified or partially electrified region. The availability of assured power in Drass will enhance the living standard of the people here. Power will primarily be used for the following uses:

- Electricity for lighting and appliances (cooking, heating, radio, TV, computer etc.) in homes and public buildings such as schools and clinics, in public places and collective events.
- Electrical or mechanical power for lift irrigation, local service and cottage industries and for agricultural value adding industries and labour saving activities.
- Improve and further promote tourism in the valley.

- Reduce dependence of diesel generation.
- Opportunities for sources of employment and income generation in the area are enhanced.

More Hydro Electric Projects to commission by the end of 2018 – being implemented by KREDA:

1. SHP Sangrah (2x750 KW), which shall be covering 7 large villages with approximately 1100 households.
2. SHP Chilong (2x500 KW), which will electrify more than 16 villages with approximately 1115 households.
3. SHP Khandi (2x750 KW), which will cover more than 27 villages, with nearly about 1800 households.

Sd/-
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KREDA-Kargil