

‘With pace of hydropower development increasing, NHPC has a bright future’

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NEW DELHI: National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited is India's leading hydropower generator. With the government's increasing focus on renewable energy, it is also diversifying into wind and solar energy, NHPC chairman and managing director KM Singh tells HT. Excerpts:

What is NHPC's position in the field of hydropower development in the country?

NHPC is India's premier hydropower company. It was established in 1975 with the mandate of developing the country's hydropower potential. Since inception, the corporation has been the flag-bearer of hydropower development in the country. NHPC contributes around 15% of the total hydropower installed capacity in India. It has crossed 5,000 MW at standalone and currently has 6,587 MW on consolidated basis with a total of 20 operating power stations.

What were NHPC's achievements in 2015-16?

We have achieved significant targets and milestones during this period. NHPC power stations generated 23,683 mega units in 2015-16, the highest-ever generation by us. Financial performance of the company has been commendable and we have registered a 15% annual growth.

What are the current projects that the company is undertaking and what further steps are being taken up towards increasing capacity addition?

NHPC at present is executing four hydroelectric projects with total installed capacity of 3,290 MW. These include Teesta Low Dam Stage-IV, Kishanganga, Parbati-II and Subansiri Lower. NHPC has already added 1,292 MW of hydropower capacity in Twelfth Plan (2012-2017) and by the end of the current plan, the company is expecting to add another 410 MW of installed capacity.

What are the projects undertaken as part of NHPC's diversification plans?

NHPC has signed an MoU with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) for development of 250MW grid-connected solar power projects. NHPC is also setting up 50-MW windpower projects in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, on turnkey basis. MoUs for development of solar power projects have been signed with Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh governments also.

Is NHPC undertaking overseas assignments?

Our technical expertise has enabled us to provide a range of consultancy services to leading organisations. Some of the major overseas assignments include projects in Bhutan, Tajikistan, Nigeria and Ethiopia.

What is your outlook on the future of hydropower?

I see a bright future for hydropower in general and NHPC in particular. We are encouraged by the government's support.