South Asia – The Energy View

South Asia basically consists of some developing nations in the Indian Sub-continent. To give you a head start, these include Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and India. As these nations are developing, there generates a huge demand of energy in strive of achieving development. Of late many of these countries are facing energy crisis. In South Asia, major source of energy is Hydro and Thermal Power plants. Here we would be looking at current scenario and future actions that needs to be taken. Current Scenario Currently, in my hometown, Bhubaneswar, we are having a daily power cut of one hour during evening to avoid a sudden shortage of electricity. The condition in rural India is worse where daily power outage is nearly 3-4 hours. Also, we need to consider annual energy demand of India is increasing at 5% per annum, which calls for movement to additional energy sources. Neighbouring Pakistan's power crisis is going from bad to worse, with demand projected to reach 50,000 megawatts (MW) by 2030 - three times more than the supply currently available in its system. Whereas countries like Nepal (where major source of electricity is through Hydro Power Plants) faces power shortage of up to 20 hours during dry season. Meanwhile, more than half of Bangladesh's total population still have no access to electricity. 66% (approx.) of total population in India and Pakistan are connected with electricity, whereas the numbers goes down to 41% (approx.) and 47% (approx.) for Bangladesh and Nepal respectively. All these numbers are alarming in the age of development and its calls for some methodologies to turn the things around. Possible Methods As inspired by Indian Prime Minister's Make In India's initiative, huge pool of investment in Renewable Energy and other new Energy Sources can start a sudden flow of change. As the Indian Market is shaping out for the next epicentre of development, it would inspire investors to go to India. Nepal, Bhutan, India and Pakistan have huge hydropower potential, this can be put together to use and meet energy demands. Nepal alone has 200,000 MW of hydropower potential, India's is around 150,000 MW. Many researchers believe that solution may lie in pooling the resources together and supplies through a cross-border network. The initial step has already been taken, with India having setting up connections with Bangladesh and Nepal. Efforts from the leaders of these economies, invest from large firms and movement towards alternative energy sources can help us avoid this energy crisis. It's a decision which lies in their own hands.

References

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