



PRESS CLIPPING

VIKRAM SOLAR

2016

DATE: 6th June 2016

SOURCE: <http://www.thehindu.com/>

MEDIA: Web

THE HINDU

Home Today's Paper All Sections News National International Opinion Business Sport Vid
Agri-Business Budget Industry Economy Markets Stock Quotes

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY June 5, 2016
Updated: June 5, 2016 22:53 IST

High operating costs burn up solar units' funds

T.C.A. SHARAD RAGHAVAN COMMENT · PRINT · T T

Tweet G+ 1 Pin It Share 2

Year	Capacity (GW)
2021-22 (P)	101.7
2020-21 (P)	84.2
2019-20 (P)	66.7
2018-19 (P)	49.7
2017-18 (P)	33.7
2016-17 (P)	18.7
2015-16	6.7
2014-15	3.7
2013-14	2.6
2012-13	1.7
2011-12	1

Solar capacity in India has grown at a compounded annual growth rate of more than 60 per cent, from a little more than 1 GW of capacity in FY12 to more than 6.7 GW in FY16.

P = Projections

Source: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

TOPICS

economy, business and finance

Dust, lack of skilled workforce, dearth of water and high temperatures – all contribute to extra costs of maintenance.

Dust, high temperatures and the dearth of water are contributing to a significant increase in the cost of operating solar power plants in the country, according to industry leaders.

Too hot

"The solar panels that are used are not designed for such high temperatures," Tata Power Solar Systems CEO and Executive Director Ashish Khanna said. "In remote areas with high temperatures, we find that we are not getting the required units of power. The panels do not yield their optimal usage."

India ranks among the highest in the world in terms of solar irradiation with an average reading of 5.1 kilowatt hours (KvH) per square metre, according to CARE Credit Research. This is higher than Germany (2.9 KvH), Japan (3.65 KvH), the US (4.7 KvH) and Italy (3.8 KvH), all of which have a larger solar installed capacity than India.

While the Centre has been encouraging the solar industry through a slew of measures such as ensuring grid connectivity and subsidies for rooftop solar projects, and with an eye on an ambitious 100 GW of solar capacity by 2022, the findings of the industry's initial producers could lead to more interventions to address problems encountered so far.

"Dust is a problem, especially in Rajasthan, where the dust conditions are really bad and require frequent cleaning around two times a month, which then increases our operational costs," Ketan Mehta, CEO of Rays Power Infra, which has about 1,800 MW of plants across eight states in the country, said.

The cleaning cost is about Rs.2 per module, Mr. Mehta added. "In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, for example, we need to clean once a month, but in Rajasthan we need to clean the modules twice a month. So that doubles the cleaning cost."

"There are different types of dust," Ivan Saha, President and Chief Technical Officer, Vikram Solar said. "There is alluvial dust (present in plains of north India and delta regions of south India). This type turns into mud when water is poured. Then there is sandy dust (present in Rajasthan and Gujarat), which can be washed away easily with water."

COVERAGE Online

LANGUAGE English

BASED ON Interview

Link: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/high-operating-costs-burn-up-solar-units-funds/article8693776.ece>