

TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AFTER PRIVATISATION; A CRITICAL REQUIREMENT

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INTRODUCTION

- The Engineering, procurement, and construction of additional transmission infrastructure to the existing TCN network is the most important thing to implement by the Government after privatization of the power sector.

TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE

- The development of transmission infrastructure will ensure the following:
- Greater access to electricity by the masses.
- Mopping – up of suppressed loads all over the country
- Grid Stabilization for effective delivery.
- Greater operational response with reduced down time.
- Robust network considering the n-1 criteria.

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- This will develop new industries, and revive dead ones.
- It will help us to interconnect our network to other countries for effective sub regional and regional power trade.
- Reduce stranded power from new generators by providing evacuation lines.

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- Dispatch captive powers from existing industries.
- The development of this transmission infrastructure will also help us reduce the cost of electricity since we may be interconnected with other networks and help harmonize our sub regional standards.

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- It will reduce the outage downtime and increase the restoration period.
- Therefore it will be necessary that the government pay more attention to the development of the transmission infrastructure than the development of new generators for now.

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- This transmission infrastructure will help us access power from renewable sources such as Solar PV cells, Wind Farms, Mini Hydro schemes and other renewable sources etc.
- Adequate transmission capacity will facilitate the importation of power from neighboring countries.

DRAW BACKS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE.

- The drawbacks experienced in the development of similar transmission infrastructures include:
- Inadequate Funding
- One year Government Budget Cycle for such projects
- Way - leave issues.

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- Lack of trained personnel in the system.
- Politicizing of the projects.
- Lack of Training and retraining of Engineers.
- Project awarded to Incompetent Contractors and Consultants