



## **Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce**

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### **Interactive Session with Mr. P. Manivannan, IAS, Managing Director, BESCO held on April 12, 2011**

Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce organized an Interactive Session with Mr. P. Manivannan, IAS, Managing Director, Bangalore Electric Supply Company (BESCO) on Tuesday, April 12, 2011.

Mr. N N Upadhyay, Past President, BCIC in his Welcome Address expressed his thanks and gratitude to Mr. Manivannan for acceding to the Chamber's request to address and interact with the members of the Chamber. He said that the main objective of the Interactive Session was to present the industry's views on the current power situation and to seek pragmatic solutions to the power shortage in the short run and discuss and deliberate on the long term planning of BESCO.

Mr. N N Upadhyay reiterated the ordeals faced by the industry due to sporadic power cuts for the past few months affecting their production process and made several suggestions for demand side management to be undertaken by BESCO to improve the supply situation. He said BESCO could adopt the Gujarat model for giving free power to rural consumers and farmers only during non-peak hours and levy tariff if they wanted quality power during peak hour. A need for metering free distribution of power to determine the actual demand position, tapping alternative sources of energy such as Solar, bio-mass and wind energy and a census of Irrigation Pump sets to replace the inefficient ones with new energy efficient sets were among the suggestions that would help overcome the challenges of demand and supply side management of ensuring efficient power supply, he said.

The engaging session proved to be different from the usual such meetings in that Mr. Manivannan in a breezy narration presented a realistic situation about the power supply issue in the state and gave an account of limitations that BESCO and Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation (KPTCL) faced to raise any hope of lasting solutions to the problems faced by the consumers. However, his realistic presentation of facts put things on record straight to drive home the point of inadequate automation of power systems, lack of autonomy and financial constraints in the two organizations restricted its expansion plans putting paid to the hopes of the state getting an uninterrupted and quality power supply.

But his information that Industries in Bangalore can hope to get uninterrupted power supply from the proposed 700 MW Bidadi Gas Project soon provided the consumers were prepared to pay Rs. 7 per unit against the current rate of Rs. 3.60 per unit. He said the government has made it clear that if it was able to sell the power at Rs. 7, the gas based project would be expedited as that would be the cost of the production. The

uninterrupted power supply would be ensured to the industry through separate feeder lines and in case of interruptions under an agreement which would also envisage a penalty clause for failure to maintain consistency in supply.

Answering various questions from the members, Mr. Manivannan also was prompt in accepting a suggestion that BESCOM should have representation from the private sector and chambers of commerce by saying "I will recommend this to the government to have a representative from the Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce".

BESCOM has also embarked upon experiments to strengthen efficiency not only in the power supply, but in managerial and operational level by planning to infuse transparency in its Procurement Policy by giving representation to public in the body.

Known for his innovative ideas to improve the organizations he has headed before BESCOM, Mr. Manivannan also expressed his personal desire to introduce franchise system in BESCOM, which would entail involvement of private sector in some part of the work. However, he cautioned that such an arrangement should have adequate checks and balances to prevent any digression from the objective of achieving overall efficiencies and cost reduction. On the long pending Smart Grid project, he said the pilot in Electronic City will be completed in two years catering to about 90,000 connections. Infosys will be providing the support for developing the automated system that would help in informing public about 'outages' or power shut down. Infosys and Reliance have been entrusted in the introduction of automated billing he said.

Mr. Manivannan's presentation was followed by Q&A Session from the floor wherein he responded to several queries raised by the participants.

Mr. Kishore Alva, Chairman, Energy Expert Committee, BCIC proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Manivannan and said that the interactions were more focused and purposeful. He also thanked all the participants for their support and cooperation in making this session a grand success. The Session was attended by more than 50 participants and was covered by Media as well.

## Event Photos



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