

Highlights of Special Address at ISGW 2016 by

Shri Piyush Goyal

Honorable Minister of Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy



Shri Piyush Goyal delivered a Special Address at the India Smart Grid Week 2016 organised by ISGF from 16 to 18 March 2016 at Manekshaw Center, New Delhi. In his address, he complemented the technological prowess displayed at ISGW 2016 and mentioned the necessity of conducting such events for the growth and sustained progress of the power sector in India. Highlights of Shri Goyal's Address are:

'Distinguished gentlemen on the dais, off the dais, ladies and gentlemen. In fact I am extremely impressed by what I have just had an opportunity to see. The exhibition showcases some really outstanding innovations, technologies and interventions that can transform our own energy sector. I am extremely grateful to the organisers for putting together the companies from around the world and I am particularly grateful to Sweden for it is partnership for engaging with India. I am sure in the days to come, government of India is focussed on creating smart grids which is an integral part of our smart cities program. This particular smart grid initiative is only going to be the first step towards India's future in the creation of technology enabled and really efficient electricity networks across the country.

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Today we are probably the fourth largest electricity consuming country in the world. Of course given our size, it is extremely inadequate and I think we have to move quickly towards being at least the second largest power consumer given our size and scale and that is the mission this government has set out to do; 24 by 7 affordable energy access to every person in this country and that's what I am personally committed to and I am sure that's what all my colleagues on the dias are committed to and that's the partnership that I would like to invite all of you to participate in; and that's the effort and initiative which cannot be achieved unless we can all work together to not only give access to everybody but also make it affordable, make it technology enabled so that people have the ability to control their usage, people have the ability to know what they are spending, people have the ability to use energy efficiency to save on their spending and people have the ability to hold me accountable along with all my other colleagues if we are not able to give them 24 by 7 power.



To my mind this initiative of bringing together all the stakeholders on one platform and helping us and educating us in crafting the programme right will be a very

great contribution to our efforts and I must thank you once again. I do hope that in the days to come all of you can sit down as a team, smaller roundtables, interaction amongst yourselves and help me to achieve my objective and my objective is very simple, very transparent, extremely doable.

I want to see that by 2019, the original targets that we had set was by the year 2022, we have just advanced it by 3 years because of all that we have seen you all can achieve; and because of all that I saw in the exhibition today, I am more and more convinced that this revised 3 years advanced target to reach our goal for power for all, affordable power for all, quality power for all is achievable by 2019. I urge you sir to lead the technology initiative and help us through all your partners. For example I was most impressed with the village smart grids that one of the innovation companies just showed me. We need to look at innovative solutions which are cost effective, which can be immediately scaled up, get the benefits of economies of scale, see how we can do the work transparently, honestly and give equal opportunity to all, see what technology can bring to the table, to drive down costs, use innovative financial models which can be win-win for all stakeholders.

We had an interaction with the mobile companies to see if we could integrate mobiles penetration into people's homes and I saw little bit of that in one of the stalls here too. How telephony, smart meters and both of them integrating into smart grids can be achieved and to my mind that could be achieved with zero investment either by the consumers or by the power companies. So I believe if we all work together, all stakeholders take this up as a mission, my own personal desire, commitment and those of you who have worked with me a little bit know that sometimes I shoot off the top of my head, but then we all work together to make that happen. I want to keep monitoring to see that the quality doesn't suffer as the prices come down and technology and quality are two things which are non-negotiable. I would not like any costs to fall at the cost of the best of class modern technology and the best state of the art quality.

So I am quite sure that my target that I am going to set today for all of you in this distinguished gathering that we would like to see smart meters in every establishment and home in this country which means that you have a business opportunity of 250 million smart meters in India in the next 3 and a half years and we want to make that happen, we want to achieve this at a price point which should be in 3 digits, that is, Rs. 999! We want smart meters at Rs. 999 and I am confident that with your blessings, your innovation, your technological prowess, your support and with the partnership that we can all work in, we can have completely two way communicable, wireless or wired smart meters. The poorest and the most deprived person, the last man at the bottom of the pyramid in India will be provided with basic amenities like power so that every child in this country has access to electricity, so that he can study well and add value to the growth and development of India. Every person gets good quality healthcare, every mother doesn't have to worry about health of her children and delivery of her next child. In fact every dimension of human existence can be transformed with good quality power and that's the mission we have all set out for us. I compliment all of you for your commitment for this sector and I appeal to you earnestly. Let us make this 250 million smart meters leading to every part of India becoming smarter and smarter, our children becoming smarter, our cities becoming smarter, our infrastructure working well to serve the people of India. Thank you all very much for your cooperation and support and I wish the organisers the very best for this event.