



Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu at the meet Thursday.

PTI

Confusion over solar power deadline: 2020 or 2022?

AMITABH SINHA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE 100 GW target for solar electricity is a promise that India has been repeating at every climate change forum over the last couple of months. But there clearly seems to be a confusion over what the deadline for meeting this target should be — 2020 or 2022.

On Thursday, speaking at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said the target was “not for 2022” but “would be achieved by 2020 itself”.

“This is a pre-2020 action by India which was not mandated under the Kyoto regime,” he said, referring to the Kyoto Protocol, which does not impose any emission-reduction action on India.

However, in all official documents, the government has kept 2022 as the deadline.

When the initial an-

nouncement about the 100 GW target was made in November last year, the year mentioned was 2020. But later it was revised to 2022, which is both the last year of the 13th five-year plan and the deadline year for the original 20,000 MW target under the National Solar Mission.

Accordingly, the pamphlets circulated at the climate change conference in Lima last year gave 2022 as the deadline. The Cabinet is yet to approve the new target for solar power generation but the note prepared for the Cabinet is also learnt to have 2022 as the deadline year.

Considering that just about 3 GW of solar capacity has been installed in the four years that the National Solar Mission has been under operation, the 100 GW target is an ambitious target even for 2022, leave alone 2020.

Apart from the solar target, the government has an-

nounced its intention to push other forms of renewable energy as well, notably wind energy, through which about 60 GW of electricity is hoped to be generated by 2022.

French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius, who spoke immediately after Javadekar at the DSDS, acknowledged the ambition in India's proposals, and talked about the solar target and the intention to triple nuclear energy production in the next ten years, a proposal made public only a few days ago.

“We all understand India's constraints. At the same time, we have taken note of the ambition (of the action) which have already been proposed. 100 GW of solar energy before 2020, tripling of nuclear energy production before 2025, 100 smart cities, the very large programme on energy efficiency...these are all real promises,” he said.