

Staff Reporter

The government considers enacting a law to make the use of energy-saving devices compulsory for consumers, Prime Minister's Energy Advisor Dr. Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury said Saturday.

"Time has come to force household, commercial and industrial consumers through legal instrument to save energy," he told a seminar to mark the National Energy Security Day at Petrobangla.

The day is observed to honor Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's decision to purchase five gas fields from a foreign company on August 9, 1975.

Tawfiq Elahi said the consumers will be given a timeframe to achieve a target for energy saving. "Energy will not be supplied to those who will miss the target," he said.

Referring to a Nobel Price winner's research paper, he said energy use could be saved one-third by using efficient home and industrial appliances.

With energy secretary Abu Bakar Siddique in the chair, the function was also addressed by State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid, parliamentary standing committee chairman on power and energy ministry Tajul Islam and Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) chairman AR Khan.

Nasrul Hamid said Bangabandhu's decision to take five gas fields from a foreign company was historic.

Following his path Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have taken prudent decisions for the

development of the gas sector and ease the people's power plight.

He said major decisions in energy sector, including exploration of coal have to be taken by one year as the issue is crucial for national development.

"If we take a decision today, it will take at least three years to see its implementation. So we have to be prompt in decision making," he said.

Power Secretary Monwar Islam Monwar Islam said the Power Division has converted a number of simple cycle power plants into combined cycle to raise their efficiency using same quantity of gas.

Petrobangla chairman Dr. Hussain Monsur, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) chairman Ynusur Rahman and Geological Survey of Bangladesh's director general Sirajur Rahman Khan also addressed the seminar.