

Denmark govt pledges Rs 3b

POST REPORT

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IN a major boost to the government's ambitious programme on renewable energy, the government of Denmark on Friday agreed to provide a grant assistance of around Rs 3 billion.

The National Rural and Renewable Energy Programme (NRREP), a multi-million-dollar five-year programme, is being implemented by the Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) under the Ministry of Environment with financial support from major development partners working in the renewable energy sector.

This is the second time that a grant has been provided to the joint-financing NRREP, which was initiated in July 16, 2012 with a pro-

jected budget of \$184 million. Norway had earlier provided a grant worth around Rs 2.34 billion.

Under the NRREP, 600,000 households are expected to get solar home system, 500,000 households will get improved cooking stoves, 150,000 households bio-gas plants, and 150,000 households will get electricity supply from micro-hydro projects each with an estimated capacity around 25MW.

"We have ambitious goals for the next five years. We want to reach more than one million rural households with renewable energy technologies, small hydropower, biogas, solar cells and improved cooking stoves," said Morten Jespersen, Danish Ambassador to Nepal, addressing a signing programme in Kathmandu on Friday.