

**MINUTES OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JERC HELD AT GRAND SERENAA HOTEL & RESORT, PUDUCHERRY ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT 1100 HRS.**

1. The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the State Advisory Committee (SAC) of JERC was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Sudhir Kumar Chaturvedi, Hon'ble Chairperson, JERC.

The following were present:-

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Sudhir Kumar Chaturvedi | : Chairman of SAC                 |
| 2. Ms. Keerti Tewari            | : Secretary, JERC                 |
| 3. Sh. Jokey Angu               | : Ex-officio Member (Puducherry)  |
| 4. Sh.J. Ashok Kumar            | : Ex-officio Member (Lakshadweep) |
| 5. Shri R.Krishnamoorthy        | : Member                          |
| 6. Shri Ashok Khanna            | : Member                          |
| 7. Shri Rajendran Sabanayagam   | : Member                          |
| 8. Shri Jyanti Laxmanbhai Patel | : Member                          |
| 9. Shri Kakad Bhai N.Nikulia    | : Member                          |

Leave of absence was granted to those who could not attend the meeting.

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome by Shri S.K. Chaturvedi. In his preliminary remarks, the Hon'ble Chairperson gave a brief introduction about JERC and its mandate and responsibilities which, interalia include determining tariff, regulating electricity purchase, issuing licenses, promoting cogeneration, protecting consumer interests etc. and the related activities the Commission undertook since the last SAC meeting.

He hoped that the meeting would be interactive with an exchange of ideas as the feedback and opinion given by the Members is very useful, and the Commission has implemented many of the suggestions given previously.

He informed the SAC members that each territory has its unique set of issues and challenges but reduction of AT&C losses and provision of cost effective electricity are common remedies which may be able to place the distribution sector on the track to attain financial sustainability. For this, action has to be taken at the level of Discoms as well as the Regulators including preparation of a detailed plan for liquidation of Regulatory Assets within 3 years, preparation of road map for reduction of cross subsidy and streamlining metering and billing. The Hon'ble Chairperson again highlighted that a very important role of the Commission is to reduce T&D losses. He pointed out that most of the areas under the jurisdiction of the JERC are within the national average loss limit and Dadra and Nagar Haveli has the lowest T&D losses in the country. Some of the licensees have initiated strict measures to check theft of power and reduction of T&D losses.

Shri Khanna praised the achievement of Dadar & Nagar Haveli for having the lowest T&D losses.

Shri Krishnamoorthy said that theft of electricity is a major contributor to T&D losses, and suggested that more stringent steps should be taken to stop electricity theft.

Shri Krishnamoorthy and Shri Rajendran discussed about the personnel safety measures, training of the employees etc. Hon'ble Chairman said that Utilities

have been directed to take necessary action regarding safety and provision has been made in ARR for safety related expenditure.

Mr. Angu suggested that every Electricity Department should have a designated "Safety Officer" for which the Commission should issue statutory advice. The Chairman said that Shri Khanna (Advisor / Regulatory Affairs, JERC) will be asked to look into the feasibility of issuing such advice. Shri Parmar suggested that we may check the latest CEA Regulations in this matter and act accordingly. Mr. Rajendran's view was that safety should be a culture for which training is very important. The Chairman said that CPRI and NPTI organize training courses and the departments can request them to organize courses for them. Shri Y.P. Chawla suggested that CBIP conducts a PSSC Certified Course which can also be made use of by the EDs.

Mr. Khanna advised the Chairman to invest in the latest technologies so that incidents and accidents can be decreased. He also said that contractors need to be educated about safety and felt that various procedures and forms need to be simplified.

Shri Krishnamoorthy suggested that any new lines/replacement of lines should be underground. This would lead to fewer accidents. He also felt that UTs are the best places to start clearing encroachments on /around electricity poles.

Mr. Angu was concerned that insurance and relief for accidents was very meagre. The Chairman suggested that this could be discussed with Insurance Cos.

Shri Jayanti Bhai Patel said that the provision of insurance may be made for the employees working on daily wages/adhoc basis also. He quoted an example where a lineman died while working on an electric pole but he did not get any compensation from the Electricity Department as he was not a permanent employee. On this the Chairman said that the "Workmen's Compensation Act" provided compensation for such employees. However the position would be ascertained from different licensees and discussed in the next meeting.

Mr. Angu felt that for more efficient functioning, the Power Departments should be headed by a Chief Engineer. The Chairman stated that Utilities have been directed to conduct a detailed study on manpower requirement by an accredited agency and informed that Chandigarh Utility has already conducted a detailed study

.Mr. Ashok Kumar suggested that the SAC should have Secretary (Power) of the territory as Member rather than Secretary, Consumer Affairs. The other Members also felt that this was more logical but this would require a change in the JERC Regulations..

2. The minutes of the last meeting (circulated earlier) were taken as confirmed.
3. The Electricity Department, Puducherry gave a presentation regarding its functioning, Capital Investment Plan, statutory and regulatory compliance and initiatives taken by the department towards implementation of smart grid, time of the day metering and billing, energy saving and introduction of on line billing and payment system for consumers.

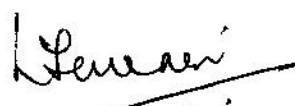
4. Ms. Keerti Tewari, Secretary gave a detailed presentation on the Tariff Orders of FY 2015-16.

5. Mr. D.R. Parmar, Director (Engg.) gave a detailed presentation on the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2014 and proposed amendments in Tariff Policy highlighting the statement of objects and reasons covering mainly:-

- To segregate the carriage from the contents by introducing multiple supply licensees in the content on the basis of market principles and continuing with the carriage as a regulatory activity.
- To provide the recovery of revenue by licensees without any revenue gap.
- Grid Security, open access, promotion of Renewable Energy.

6. It was decided unanimously that the next meeting of the State Advisory Committee will be held at Silvassa (DNH) in the month of December, 2015..

7. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

  
(Keerti Tewari)  
Secretary