

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 14TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE HELD ON 6TH JANUARY 2006**

List of Members present, Members absent (with Notice/leave of absence) and Members absent (without notice) are as given in the Annex.

The Chairman welcomed the Members to the meeting and extended greetings for the New Year 2006. He also stated that there was no specific agenda for the meeting and meeting was convened to thank the members who are retiring. He appreciated the valuable suggestions given by such retiring Members in all the meetings and also for their active participation during the meetings. He further added that even in future they are welcome to send their valuable suggestions and comments, in respect of the power sector, to the Commission.

16.1 The minutes of the 13th advisory Committee meetings were confirmed.

16.2 Dr. L.R. Rajagopal, CEO, SANDS made a presentation on "Revenue Improvement Strategies for DISCOMs". The presentation covered the areas of Consumer Indexing [CI], GIS, HT & LT metering system inspection, AMRs , Sub –Station energy management system , 11 kV feeder energy audit and spot billing system. He concluded that:

- a. CI activity has to cover all consumers with scalability and interoperability with other solutions.
- b. Regarding GIS he opined that, MoP/CEA should co-ordinate in the development of GIS software to reduce end cost.

- c. 11 kV feeder energy audit would be meaningful only after proper CI and it should be attempted only in urban/industrial feeders at this stage.
 - d. He also opined that open protocol for metering is required and SERCs should play an active role in this matter.
- 16.3 Member-2 discussed the issue of two meters, one electro-mechanical & the other electronic, in a premises showing wide difference in energy consumption, even though both meters were OK when tested by MRT. Sri Rajagopal stated that the tests are conducted for 50 Hz and are not tested for harmonics. Further, he suggested that study of load profile of the installation for 2 days by installing load profiler would reveal whether there is tampering or not.
- 16.4 Sri Ganapathi, Member, Advisory Committee raised the following issues:
- a. System improvement at district level/taluk level is not significant and the program has to be prioritised and accelerated.
 - b. KERC to undertake proactive role and embark on energy audit study especially to determine the specific consumption of IP sets.

Regarding the system improvement, the Commission asked the ESCOMs to look into the matter and take appropriate action. As regards the estimation of IP set consumption, Director-Technical, KERC clarified that hitherto the Commission is estimating the IP set consumption based on the sample DTC meter readings furnished by the ESCOMs. Due to inconsistencies in the readings furnished by the ESCOMs, the

Commission has entrusted TERI to validate the IP set consumption by selecting one DTC per taluk and collate the data for one year. The study has begun and the Commission would validate the IP consumption furnished by the ESCOMs by considering the results of the study in the future ERCs.

16.5 Sri K.N. Venkatagiri Rao, Member, Advisory Committee complemented the Commission for introducing separate tariff for rural & urban areas in the Tariff Order 2005.

16.6 Sri M.G. Prabhakar, Member, Advisory Committee raised the following points:

- a. The Commission's order on rectification of specific brand of tri-vector meters regarding error in PF has not been carried out by ESCOMs so far.
- b. ESCOMs are taking up maintenance works without sufficient prior notice, which is affecting the functioning of the industries.
- c. ESCOMs are to be directed by the Commission to provide consumers with booklets regarding charges payable for service connections. UG cable charges are being collected in areas, which are not under BMP.
- d. Testing of meters to be entrusted to Electrical Inspectorate as was being practised earlier.
- e. 15 days clear notice shall be issued by the ESCOMs before effecting disconnection as provided in the Electricity Act 2003.

Commission urged the ESCOMs to take appropriate action in the above matters. Regarding UG cable charges, MD/BESCOM stated that he would look into the matter and issue necessary instructions. Regarding Testing of meters, the

Commission informed that Gol had brought out a draft paper on the functions of electrical inspectorate and the Commission has already furnished its comments. Final decision of Gol is awaited.

- 16.7 Chairman, KERC informed the Advisory Committee that the Commission had done away with flat rate tariff in its Tariff Order 2005 and had directed ESCOMs to devise their own methodology for billing unmetered installations until meters are fixed. Further, he stated that during the review meeting with GESCOM, the Commission noted that the consumption fixed by GESCOM for unmetered installations was lower than that for the metered installations and thus it discouraged metering of IP installations instead of encouraging metering. The Chairman desired to know the method being implemented in other ESCOMs also.

In reply, MD/MESCOM stated that the billing of IP sets wherever meter is not fixed is done on the basis of DTC meter reading. The Commission requested all the ESCOMs to review the matter.

The Secretary, Department of Food & Civil supplies and Consumer Affairs, GoK suggested that in order to promote metering and recovery of electricity charges from IP sets, the duration of power supply to farmers should be linked to recovery level. He suggested that larger the recovery, longer the duration of supply could be and the responsibility should be entrusted to the Panchayat. MD/MESCOM stated that 24 hrs supply is being provided to IP sets in certain areas. The Commission requested all the ESCOMs to explore this option in order to promote metering and recovery of tariff.

Chairman emphasised the need to meter all the IP installations to completely eliminate any sampling, assessment of consumption, assessment of losses, etc. He urged all the ESCOMs to embark upon metering of IP installations in a time bound manner and requested the farmer representatives to convince the farmers regarding advantages of metering. Sri Venkatagiri Rao responded that farmers are generally willing for metering and metering has taken place to a large extent in South Kanara and Coorg Districts. Sri Shankarikoppa stated that there is no resistance from the farmers for metering and requested the ESCOMs to approach the farmer's leaders if they encounter any difficulty in metering. He also stated that there should be political willingness in the matter. The Commission urged the ESCOMs to come out with detailed metering programme.

16.8 Sri Chandrashekar, MD, Bhoruka Power Corporation Ltd and Member, Advisory Committee opined that the surcharge fixed by KERC for open access was not encouraging. Chairman clarified that the open access charges fixed by KERC is one of the lowest in the country and that the Commission had fixed these charges as per the provisions of the Act. The Chairman also informed that the matter of cross subsidy surcharge is being dealt with in Tariff Policy of Gol. Once the tariff policy is issued, it would clarify the issues relating to open access charges.

16.9 Chairman, KERC thanked all the members of the Committee.

Sd/-
Chairman

Members present

1.	Mr.K.P.Pandey	Chairman
2.	Mr.H.S.Subramanya,	Member-I
3.	Mr.S.D.Ukkali,	Member (Technical)
4.	Managing Director, K.P.T.C.L.	Committee Member
5.	Managing Director, K.P.C.L.	Committee Member
6.	President, KEB Engineers Association,	Committee Member
7.	Mr. M.G.Prabhakar	Committee Member
8.	Mr. K.N.Venktagiri Rao	Committee Member
9.	Managing Director, Bhoruka Power Corpn. Ltd.,	Committee Member
10.	Shri Raghavendra Raju.	Committee Member
11.	Managing Director, BESCO.	Committee Member
12.	Shri Govindappa,	Committee Member
13.	Shri Ravi Ganapathi.	Committee Member
14.	Amaranath Patil.	Committee Member
15.	Secretary, Department of Food & Civil Supplies & Consumers Affairs.	Committee Member
16.	Shri M.S. Shankarikoppa.	Committee Member
17.	Shri A.S. Kulkarni.	Committee Member

1	Shri M. Nagaraj	Secretary, KERC.
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Members Absent (Without Notice)

1	Director, Confederation of Indian Industry.	
2	Prakash Kashinath Rao Patil.	
3	Managing Director, GESCOM.	
4	President, KPTCL Employees Union	