

## CHAPTER-3

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION - SUGGESTIONS / OBJECTIONS & REPLIES

**3.1** The Commission undertook the process of public consultation in pursuance of Section-64 of the Electricity Act, 2003, in order to obtain suggestions/ views/ objections from the interested stake-holders on the Tariff application filed by MESCOM. In the written submissions as well as during the public hearing some stake-holders and public have raised several objections on the Tariff Applications filed by MESCOM. The names of the persons who have filed written objections are given below:

**3.2 List of persons who filed written objections within due date:**

Sl.No	Application No.	Name & Address of Objectors
1	MA-01	Sri.G.R.Venkappa Gowda S/o Sanna Raamappa Gowda, Govinahalli, Untooru Katte, Thirthahalli Taluk -577424
2	MA-02	Sri. K.Nagaraja Shetty S/o Sheenappa Shetty, Kondlu Koppa, Sunkada Hole Post, Thirthahalli Taluk-577432
3	MA-03	Sri. Vitala Shetty S/o Sri. U.Koraga Shetty, Mandagadde, Mandagadde Post, Thirthahalli Taluk-577220
4	MA-04	Sri M.G. Rajagopal, Hon. General Secretary, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association, #2/106, 17th Cross, Magadi Chord Road, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560 040.
5	MA-05	Sri. D.M.Manudev S/o D.R.Manappagowda, Ingladi Devangi, Devangi Post, Thirthahalli Taluk - 577415
6	MA-06	Sri. Araga Jnanendra S/o Sri. Ramannagowda, Guddekoppa, Guddekoppa post, Thirthahalli Taluk-577414
7	MA-07	Sri. K.Verendra Nayak S/o Sri. K.Narasimhanayak, Horabailu, Kuruvalli Post, Thirthahalli Taluk-577432
8	MA-08	Sri. Ganesh.M.S S/o Sri. Subbanna, Araga Thirthahalli Taluk - 577414
9	MA-09	Sri. GangaramaM.S S/o Sri. Subbarao, Araga Gate, Araga Post, Thirthahalli Taluk -577414
10	MA-10	Sri. Sulaj Kini, Secretary, Kanara Small Industrial Area, Baikampady, Mangaluru-575011
11	MA-11	Sri. Sathyanarayana Udupa, District Principal Secretary, Bharathiya Kissan Sangha, Karnataka Region(R), Udupi

Sl.No	Application No.	Name & Address of Objectors
		District Committee, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Vasuki Towers, Court Road, Udupi-576101.
12	MA-12	Sri. Rajendra Suvarna, President, Karnataka Coastal Ice Plant and Cold Storage Owners Association, Udupi
13	MA-13	Sri. Balasubramanya Bhat. J. S/o Sri Suryanarayana Bhatt, Bolambi Mane, Ujire village and post, Belthangadi Taluk - 574240
14	MA-14	Sri Isaac Vas, President, Kanara Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Chamber Building, Bunder, P.B. No.116, Mangalore-575 001.
15	MB-01	Sri V. Suryanarayana Rao, Chief Operating Officer, Mangalore SEZ Limited, Reg.Office: Sy.No.168/3A, Plot No.U-1, Administrative Building, Bajpe Village, Mangalore Taluk, Karnataka-574 142.
16	MB-02	Sri. Panduranga Hegde, Bin: Sri. Shyamashetti, JalaDeepa , Kuthyaru Post, Udupi Taluk.
17	MB-03	Sri. K.P Bandari, Bin: Sri.Chikkayya Bhandari,Kedinje Paraari, Kedinje village, Karkala Taluk
18	MB-04	Sri. Vasudeva Shanubaag, Bin: Sri.Maadava Shanubaag, Dattarama Sankeerna, Pangala Post, Udupi Taluk.
19	MB-05	Smt. Shreemathi, Bin Sri.Harish Acharya,"Sri Kalikamba", Padugopadi village, Koteshwara post, kundapur taluk, Udupi district
20	MB-06	Sri.A.Mahabala baayaari, Bin: Sri. Mahadeva baayaari, Aaluru chitrkuta, kundapur taluk, Udupi dist-576233
21	MB-07	Sri.Nagendra Udupa, Bin: Sri Krishna Udupa, Haravari, Vandse village, Kundapura Taluk, Udupi District.
22	MB-08	Sri. Sundara Shetty, Bin: Sri.Baccha Shetty, Kelamane, Muniyal baylu, Varaanga village, karakala taluk, Muniyal Post
23	MB-09	Sri.Sadananda Shetty, Bin: Sri. Sanjeeva Shetty,"Samanvaya", Mandedi, Inmanje Post, Udupi Taluk
24	MB-10	Sri.Ramachandra pai, Bin: Sri.Gopal Krishna Pai, 16/2, Bhavani, Shirva Kapu Road, Shirva Post, Udupi Taluk-574116
25	MB-11	Sri. Pranesh yadiyal, Bin: Sri.D.Venkataramana yadiyal, Tenka bylu, Yadamage village and post, Kundapur Taluk
26	MB-12	Sri.Srinivasa Bhat, Bin: Sri. Parameshwara Bhat," Sadhana" , Iruvattur Post, karkala Taluk-574116
27	MB-13	Sri. Seetharama Ganiga, Bin: Sri. Subbaiah Ganiga, "Shri Venu", Halaadi post, kundapur Taluk
28	MB-14	Sri. B.V. Poojari, Bin: Sri.Venkata Poojari, Pedooru Post, Udupi Taluk
29	MB-15	Sri.Naveen Chandra Jain, Bin: Sri.Anatharaja Mudhya,

Sl.No	Application No.	Name & Address of Objectors
		Madumane, Anche Nitte, Karkala Taluk
30	MB-16	Sri. Prabhakara V. Sheety, Bin: Sri.Diwakara Shetty, Bangara Gaddhe Mane, Mundkuru Anche, Karkal Taluk-576121
31	MB-17	Sri. Govindaraj Bhat, Bin: Sri.Keshava Bhat, Mursalu Mane, Kadthala village, Karkala Taluk-574108
32	MB-18	Sri. Chandrasasa Shetty Bin Sri. Rathna Shetty, "Bandavya", Kaachuru, Inna village and post , Karkala Taluk, Udupi District-576121
33	MB-19	Sri. Vishwanath Bhat,Bin: Sri.S.Anantha Bhat, Pedooru Mane, Iravattur Post, Karkala
34	MB-20	Sri.Vishwanatha Shetty, Bin: Late Sri. Sundhara Sheety, R.Divya Residency, Gandhi Maidhana Road, Karkala- 574104
35	MB-21	Sri.M.Keshava Marate, Bin: Sri. Ramachandra Maraate, Melehitlu, Durga village and Post, Karkala Taluk, Udupi dist-576117
36	MB-22	Sri.Addarsha Indra, Bin: Sri.Neerasena Indra, "Kushmandini Krupa", Jarkala, Mundi village, karkala Taluk-574101
37	MB-23	Sri.Raghavendra, Bin: Sri.Narayana Naik, Musre Kaasaana Bengre, Someshwara Post, Nadbalu village, Hebri Taluk, Udupi district.
38	MB-24	Smt.Revathi.S Varikh W/o Sri. Surendra S.Varikh, Mursarlu, Kadthala Post, Karkala taluk
39	MB-25	Sri.Gopinath Shennai, Bin: Sri.Nagesh Shennai, Court Road, Karkala-574704
40	MB-26	Sir.P.K.V. Nambiyar, Bin: I.T.K.Nambiyar, Bijapal, Bhorkatte, Mijaar village, Karkala-574107, Udupi Taluk
41	MB-27	Sri.K. Mohandasa Adyantharu, Bin: Late Sri.Manjappa Adyantharu, Seetha Vihara, beladi post, Kanthavara village, Karkala taluk, udupi district
42	MB-28	Sri.Madhoji Rao, Bin: Sri. Babhojirao, Ambabhavani, Kallimaru house , Mundkuru village, Mundukuru post, Karkala Taluk, 576121
43	MB-29	Sri.Joseph M Minejas, Bin Sri. Martin Minejas, Kaje mane, Mundkuru village, Sacheri Gudde, Karkala Taluk-576121
44	MB-30	Sri.Sampath Kumar, Bin: Sri.Gunapaala Shetty, Padmapriya Mane, Siribayalu Kadala post and village, Karkala Taluk-574108
45	MB-31	Sri.Padnduraja Shetty Bin Sri.Shantiraja Athikari, Ballehitlu mane, Nooralubettu village, Karkala Taluk, Udupi district
46	MB-32	Smt. Bharathi w/o Sri. Yogish, "Anugraha", Near Niddepade, Shirlavi village, Haadiyangadi post, Karkala taluk
47	MB-33	Sri.Ananda Naik, Bin: Sri. Sheenanaik, Mthinjaddu mane , Kadthala village, Karkala Taluk, Udupi district

Sl.No	Application No.	Name & Address of Objectors
48	MB-34	Sri.Harish Kumar, Bin: Sri.Parshwanatha padival, Kalya Parari, Kalya Post, Karkala Taluk, udupi district-574110
49	MB-35	Sri.Sudharshan, Bin: Sri.S.B.Gunapala Hegde, Bhavantha Bettu, Haadiyangadi post, Karkala taluk, Udupi district
50	MB-36	Sri.Alex.D Silwa, Bin: Sri.Anthoni D Souza, Kuntalpadi, Saanooru, Karkala
51	MB-37	Sri.Harishchandra Hegde, Bin: Sri.Raviraja Athikari, Nadimaru Mane, Marne Ajekaru, Karkala taluk
52	MB-38	Sri.K. Ananthanaik,Bin Sri.Lakshman naik, Korachhe bettu mane, Kukkundooru post,Karkala taluk, Udupi District-576117
53	MB-39	Sri.Rajeshwara Naik S/o Sri.Babu Naik, "Pallavi" Mala Post, Karkala Taluk, udupi district
54	MB-40	Sri. Jenet Brittu, Bin: Sri. Lajaras Brittu,Koppala House,Nandalike Post, Karkala taluk
55	MB-41	Sri.Madhva Gowda, Bini: Sri. Jana Gowda, Shridevi Prasda Mane, Chaithra bailu, Jarkala, Mundli village, Karkala Taluk
56	MB-42	Smt.Manjula Shetty s/o Sri.Harish Shetty, 6-105, Kukkeraparadi, Bola Post, Karkala Taluk, Udupi -574110
57	MB-43	Sri.Karunakara shetty Bin: Sri. Acchanna Shetty, Alangaru Mane, Mundkuru Post, karkala taluk,
58	MB-44	Smt.Shwetha.D C/o Shyamanaik, Darkasu mane, durga village and post Karkala Taluk

The objections/suggestions mainly pertain to:

- a. Tariff;
- b. Quality of Power Supply and Service;
- c. Compliance of Commission's directives; and
- d. Certain specific requests.

The gist of objections, replies by MESCOM and the Commission's Views are appended to this order in **Appendix-1**.

In addition to the above, few written objections were received after the due date, which is noted by the Commission.

**3.3** List of the persons, who made oral submissions during the Public Hearing, held on 13.02.2020:

SL. No.	Names & Addresses of Objectors
1	Shri B.A. Nazir & A.R.Musba, Kanara Chamber of Commerce & Industry
2	Sri. Henri Bitto, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association
3	Shri Rajendra Suvarna, Karnataka Coastal Ice Plants & Cold Storage Association.
4	Shri. B.Satyanaryana Udupa, Bharatiya Kissan Sangha, Udupi
5	Shri. Suryanaryana, CEO, MSEZ
6	Shri. Hanif Saheb Pajapalla, Mangalore
7	Shri. Parameshwarappa, Bharatiya Kissan Sangha, Chikkamangalur
8	Shri Eshwara Raj, PUCL President, Dakshina Kannada
9	Shri Shoban Babu, Bharatiya Kissan Sangha, Kodagu
10	Shri. Lakshminarayana, Bantwal
11	Shri K.N.Venkatagiri, Consumer Forum, Sagara

**3.4** The summary of the additional points raised during the Public Hearing are as follows:

- 1) In general, opposed the Tariff hike as there is an economic slowdown, wherein small scale industries are closing down and requested, not to increase the tariff.
- 2) The number of objections filed and number of people attending the public hearing is being drastically reduced year on year, due to usual tariff hike allowed by the Commission in the recent years.
- 3) The MESCOM officials do not stay in Head Quarters.
- 4) Why is that the Tariff hike is required every year and is showing increasing trend, considering addition of cheaper renewable energy and MESCOM is under profit.
- 5) The tariff for Ice Plant and Cold Storage units are on the higher side compared with the neighboring States like Kerala and Maharashtra. In the situation wherein fisheries are on decline and 80% of the cost of these units are towards electricity bills, it was requested to limit the tariff for these units at

- Rs 5.00 per unit for the Ice Plant and Cold Storage units lying within 5 km range of Mangaluru City.
- 6) Appreciated MESCOM staff for handling the works even with shortage of Staff.
  - 7) The Commission shall not consider the Capex proposal of MESCOM, if it is not beneficial and economical to end consumers.
  - 8) Accounting procedure followed by MESCOM is not correct.
  - 9) The subsidy amount or any such amount to be released by the Government to MESCOM shall be released as and when it is raised in order to avoid obtaining loan for such amount from Banks with interest by MESCOM, due to financial deficit.
  - 10) Fee of Rs.10,000/- towards development charges needs to be paid by the beneficiary for energization of IP set and the fee remains the same for those who apply under Akrama-Sakrama scheme. This needs a relook.
  - 11) DTC metering is incomplete and instead of covering the entire MESCOM area and metering randomly, it is suggested for Circle-wise DTC metering and completion, one after the other.
  - 12) On placing capacitors in IP set feeders, it was stated that, wherever there is good voltage and good quality supply, capacitors will work and not where there is voltage problem.
  - 13) For obtaining any services, the contractors between Public and MESCOM officials should be avoided and this will save lot of expenditure to the public.
  - 14) The Auto Reclosures are not maintained properly and hence, it is a dead investment.
  - 15) The tariff for usage of slurry pump shall be put under LT2 category.
  - 16) There are delays in pronouncement of judgements by the Ombudsman.
  - 17) Monsoon gang should be deputed one-month in advance, for maintenance of lines.
  - 18) Requested for Tariff parity for MSEZ in line with MESCOM consumers.
  - 19) Necessity of effective utilization of Govt. of India funds towards "Smart City"
  - 20) The department vehicle shall not be misused.

- 21) There is necessity to remove the concessional tariff granted for Commercial crops like rubber.
- 22) MESCOM officials are not available in the office during office hours for two to three days in week due to meetings, which is a hindrance to the public and hence these meetings need to be scheduled after office hours/ on holidays.
- 23) While preparing estimates, provision for TCs has been made for energization IP set. Whereas in practice, the IP sets are energized without providing TCs.
- 24) The linemen are being used for bill collection and as drivers, instead of using them for their regular works.
- 25) The failed Distribution Transformers are not being replaced within the mandated time as per the Standards of Performance.
- 26) The DTC repair centers are not using quality material while repairing them and hence, life of the replaced transformers is very short.
- 27) For IP sets, provide the 3 Phase supply in day instead of night. The 3 Phase supply is provided 6 hours in some districts and 7 hours in some other districts.
- 28) Compensation provided towards Electrical Accidents shall be made fast track and the amount paid for, it needs revision.
- 29) The Niranthara Jyothi Yojana, is not being implemented properly.
- 30) Contractors are using duplicate stamp papers and concerned section officers are unable to notice it and no action has been initiated.
- 31) The vigilance raid on Kasturba Medical College and Hospital by MESCOM official needs thorough investigation and justice.
- 32) The ink which is used to print the Bills are lasting not more than a week. This needs to be looked in.
- 33) Amounts are being paid towards regularizing TCs but till date TC are not provided.
- 34) Amounts are being collected from respective villagers towards all the expenditure towards replacement of failed Transformer.
- 35) The free power is being provided to IP sets of capacity more than 10HP, even upto 400 HP per individual. This needs to avoided.
- 36) Transformers of appropriate capacity needs to be provided for IP sets and providing Transformers with higher capacity than needed shall be avoided.

- 37) Energy auditing of DTC Metering to record the IP set consumption shall be made mandatory.
- 38) Before providing approval for any new capital expenditure works, the benefits of previous capital expenditure works needs to be analyzed and made known to the public.
- 39) OYT scheme should be encouraged for reducing losses.
- 40) The Educational Institutions, Public Charitable Trusts/Institutes are taking rebate but they are running commercially and rebate is not necessary for such trust/institutes. Hence, DCA level officer shall be appointed for verification of the same before arranging supply to such trusts/institutes.
- 41) The present tariff allowed for life-line consumption of 30 units needs relook in the present conditions.
- 42) The domestic tariff need to be reduced.
- 43) Solar energy should be encouraged due to low cost.
- 44) The fixed cost shall not be increased as there is no proper reasons for it.
- 45) Consumers needs to educated regarding Standards of Performance and Sakala using regulatory fund.
- 46) The Extension & Improvement works which are approved are not implemented.

**MESCOM Response:**

The MD MESCOM stated that the replies to most of the issues raised in the public hearing have been furnished in the written replies. The other issues not covered earlier would be looked into and remedial action taken.

**Commission's Views:**

The Commission directed MESCOM to look into the unresolved issues and attend to them on priority.