The names of the Committee Members who were present at the meeting are at Annexure-1.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Committee members who were present. He mentioned that there are not many suggestions coming forward from the Committee members with regard to power sector reforms. Chairman requested members to give their comments and suggestions on the reforms policy. At this juncture, Sri Narayanagowda and Sri Munegowda requested the Commission/Chairman to make clear the role to be played by the Advisory Committee in this regard. Members present felt that for survival of the power sector, the reasonable recovery of revenue should be there. Sri Munegowda felt that recovery of revenue is a must, at the same time, the enormous expenditure spent on salary and other expenses by KPTCL to be reduced to the reasonable level. In this regard it is felt that KPTCL to be reorganized. Sri Narayanagowda expressed that the existing manpower of KPTCL is not commensurate with the quantum of works/service to be rendered. Chairman expressed that the Commission cannot involve in the matters of daily routine affairs of the licensee.

Sri A.S. Kulkarni, representing for Dr. Ananth Huilgol, expressed that the reorganization of KPTCL needs to be effected to yield the result of getting the optimum benefit out of the expenses expended and redeployment of the available human and other resources for providing the quality service at the least cost.

4.1 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30.07.2001:

The minutes of the third meeting of the Advisory meeting held on 30.07.2001 as circulated to the members vide Commission letter No. J/02/1/1345, dt. 3.8.2001 were confirmed.

4.2 Recommendation made by the participants in the Workshop held on 20th & 21st August, 2001 with regard to improving the quality of power supply in rural areas, IP sets, tariff and related issues:

The Chairman informed that the subject recommendations have been forwarded to the Government of Karnataka. Sri M.S. Shankarikoppa explained the need to meet the Chief Minister to achieve the objectives of the workshop held and to take needful action on the recommendations. He mentioned that the farmers never wanted free service. They agreed to pay provided they are not discriminated with regard to providing equitable service/quality power supply on par with the urban. He also suggested that half-a-day workshop involving Secretaries of all the concerned departments on the recommendations made/to over come the difficulties encountered with regard to providing quality power to rural areas. Sri YG Muralidharan suggested that the power sector reforms need to have the support from the political parties, with the forum of legislatures power sector reforms are to be discussed to seel the idea that unless there is a consensus on implementing the reforms, the objective cannot be achieved. At this juncture, Sri Munegowda suggested a Committee comprising Commission and Committee members should make a study by selecting/visiting the villages in each zones of the State to know the problems faced with regard to service provided by the licensee and the measures need to be taken to overcome the problems. This will enable to ascertain the facts by directly meeting the consumers and to examine the specific instances.

Sri Shankarikoppa suggested that 30-40% of the energy consumption could be saved if HDPE pipes are used in place of GI pipes for the bore well, as per the study reports. He suggested either the Government or KPTCL to introduce some incentive for the proposed changeover which result in reduction of energy
consumption. As the reports were eight years old, whether the same holds good now needs to be ascertained.

Sri Narayanagowda desired to know the jurisdiction of the CAC with regard to recommendations to be made whether the Committee is empowered to make objections and suggestions on the policy matters and the guidelines framed by the Government. He has made a visit to Orissa, Maharashtra and Harayana where the reform process have failed with regard to private participation in supply and distribution of power. Hence it is necessary to make a thorough study of pros and cons of privatisation. Chairman informed that efforts will be made to meet the Chief Minister along with the Committee Members on the issue.

4.3 Implementation of directives issued in the Tariff Order, 2001/Observations of the Hon'ble High Court on the MFA 865/2001:

The reports at the agenda notes on the subject were noted. Chairman informed that the Commission has taken up the review of the status report furnished by the KPTCL on the directives. As the reply furnished are incomplete, KPTCL is being addressed in this matter. Commission also proposes to hold meetings with the licensee on the implementation of directives.

4.4 Report on the action taken with regard to disclosure of information under Section 35 of the Act, complaint handling and redressal standards relating to distribution and supply of power:

Chairman informed the publication of (a) Complaint Handling and Redressal standards relating to distribution and supply of power (standards of performance); (b) KERC (Consumers Right to Information) Regulations, 2001; and (c) Practice Direction No. 1 (Consumers Grievance Handling Procedure), have finalized and sent to Compiler, Karnataka Gazette, Government Press for publication. Commission will notify the date of adoption of the above by KPTCL soon after publication of the same in the Karnataka Gazette.

4.5 Any other Subject:

Chairman has invited attention of the members with regard to regulations on one-third members to be retired annually and on absence of Committee members for the meeting and implementation on the same.

Sd/-
(Philipose Matthai) Chairman

Annex-1

Members present at the 4th CAC meeting held on 15.10.2001

1. Sri Philipose Matthai Chairman
2. Sri H.R. Gopal Member
3. Smt. Nalini M.K. Menon Member
4. Sri J. Crasta Committee Member
5. Sri V. Narayanagowda - do-
6. Sri S. Munegowda - do-
7. Sri Y.G. Muralidharan - do-
8. Sri K.N. Jayalingappa - do-
9. Sri M.R. Rangaswamayya - do-
10. Sri S. Chandrashekar, MD, BPCL - do-
11. Sri A.S. Kulkarni Proxi for Dr. Ananth Huilgol - do-
12. Sri M.S. Shankarikoppa - do-