

## 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 provide an opportunity to the stakeholders to express their suggestions/views/objections, on the Tariff application filed by MESCOM. In the written submissions as well as during the public hearing some of the stakeholders and public have raised several objections to the Tariff Applications filed by MESCOM. The names of the persons who have filed written objections and made oral submissions are as follows:

**3.2 List of persons who filed written objections:**

Sl. No	Application No.	Name & Address of Objectors
<b>Received within due date: MA-01 to MA-10 and MB-01 to MB-12</b>		
<b>MA-01 to MA-10</b>		
1	MA-01	Sri. P. Shashidhar, Administrator, KASSIA, 2/106, 17 <sup>th</sup> Cross, Magadi Chord Road, Jayanagar, Bengaluru – 560 040
2	MA-02	The Karnataka Coastal Ice Plant & Cold Storage Owners Association, Udupi
3	MA-03	Sri. Ravindra Gujjarabettu, Udupi Jilla Krushikara Sangha, Guruprasad Building, Alankar Theater behind, Udupi
4	MA-04	Sri. Sanjiva Shetty, Hegra Halemane, Hegra Post, Udupi Taluk and District
5	MA-05	Sri. Sharma, Harana Katte, Bantakallu, Shankarapura
6	MA-06	Haridasa Ballal, S/o M.Srinivasa Ballala, 'Sreedeepta', 1-175C1, V M Temple Road, Mallachalli, Udupi – 576 102
7	MA-07	Sri. Shashidhar Pai Maroor, Director/President, Kanara Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Chamber Building, Bunder, P.B. No. 116, Managaluru – 575 001
8	MA-08	Sri. K.N. Venkatagiri Rao, President, Consumer' Forum, Brasam Building, Nehru Field, Sagar – 577 401
9	MA-09	Sri. Robin Jose, Joint Secretary, Kanara Industries Association, Association Building, Industrial Area, Baikambapdy, Managluru – 575 011

10	MA-10	Sri. Sathyanarayana Udupa, District General Secretary, Bharathiya Kisan Sangha Karnataka Pradesha (R), Udupi Jilla Samiti, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Vasuki Towers, Court Road, Udupi – 576 101
<b>MB-01 to MB-14</b>		
11	MB-01	Sri. Suresh Nayaka M, Shridhar Krupa, 9-4-236, City Press Road, Managaluru – 575 001
12	MB-02	Sri. B.V. Pujari, Paduru Village, Udupi Taluk & District – 576 101
13	MB-03	Sri. Aastrika Shastri S/O Narasimha Shastri, Gundmi Village, Sasthana Post, Bramhavara Taluk
14	MB-04	Sri. Harish Kumar S/O Pashwanatha Padiwal, Kalya Parari House, Kalya Post, Karkala Taluk, Udupi – 574 110
15	MB-05	Sri. K.P. Bhandari, Divya Residency, Gandhi Ground Road, Kevenje Village, Karkala Taluk, Udupi – 574 104
16	MB-06	Sri. Praveen Kumar, Gumre House, Kalatturu Post, Kapu Taluk, Udupi
17	MB-07	Sri. Seetharama Ganiga S/O Subbaiah Ganiga, Haladi Post, Kundapura Taluk, Udupi – 576 222
18	MB-08	Sri. Chandrasasa Shetty, 'Bandavya', Kaachur, Inna Village and Post, Karkala Taluk, Udupi – 576 121
19	MB-09	Sri. Umanatha Ranade S/O Late Ranade Sadashiva Bhatt, Mala Village and Post, Karkala Taluk, Udupi
20	MB-10	Sri. Govindaraja Bhat, Moorsalu Mane, Kadthala Post, Karkala Taluk, Udupi – 574 108
21	MB-11	Sri. Naveenchandra Jain, Padumane, Nitte Village, Karkala Taluk, Udupi
22	MB-12	Sri. Srinivasa Bhat, 'Sadana', Irvathur Post, Karkala Taluk, Udupi – 574 414
<b>Received after due date: MB-13 and MB-14</b>		
23	MB-13	Sri. Jogendra Behera, VP(Market Design & Economics) Indian Energy Exchange, Plot No. C-001/A/1, 9 <sup>th</sup> floor, Max Towers, Sector 16B, Noida, UP-201301
24	MB-14	Sri. Anil Savur D. Secretary, The Karnataka Planters' Association, Chikmangalur-577101
25		Dr.L.Hanumanthaiah, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha
<b>Received during Public Hearing on 21.02.2022</b>		
26	PHM-01	M/s. SRI MAHAGANAPATHI ENGINEERING WORKS, Tropical Plaza, Goodshed Road, Mangaluru-575001.
27	PHM-02	M/s. DIVINE ICE & COLD STORGAE, Plot No. 395-A1, Industrial Area, Baikampady, Mangaluru-575011.
28	PHM-03	M/s. MARIYA ICE & COLD STORAGE, Boloor, Mangalore-575003.
29	PHM-04	M/s. MASTER MARINE FOODS, South Wharf, Bunder, Mangalore-575001.

30	PHM-05	M/s. KAVERY ICE & COLD STORAGE, Plot No. 395C, Industrial Estate, Baikampady, Mangaluru-575011.
31	PHM-06	M/s. THASNEEM ICE & COLD STORAGE, Neershwalaya Cross Road, Kandak, Bundar, Mangalore-575001.
32	PHM-07	M/s. DIVINE SPIRIT ICE & COLD STORGAE, Plot No. 395-A1, D. No.6-244/1, Industrial Area, Baikampady, Mangaluru-575011.
33	PHM-08	M/s. DIVINE MERCY ICE & COLD STORGAE, Plot No. 7-D-89, Industrial Area, Baikampady, Mangaluru-575011.
34	PHM-09	M/s. KAVERY KRIPA ICE PLANT, Plot No. 395C, Industrial Estate, Baikampady, Mangaluru-575011.
35	PHM-10	M/s. KARNATAKA COASTAL ICE PLANT & COLD STORAGE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, D. No. 8-3-80A(3), Sri Guru Raghavendra residency, Kadiyali, Udupi-576102.
36	PHM-11	M/s. SIDDHI ICE PLANT, Kuthpady-Udupi-574118.
37	PHM-12	M/s. SRI DURGA ICE PLANT, Nireshwalya Cross Road, Casba Bazar, Bunder, Mangalore-575001.
38	PHM-13	M/s. SUHAS ENTERPRISES, bundar, Post malpe, Udupi Tq. & Dist.
39	PHM-14	M/s. NITHYANANDA ICE PLANT, Kuthpady, Udyavara-Udupi.
40	PHM-15	M/s. VIJAYA ICE PLANT, Kulai, mangalore-575019.
41	PHM-16	M/s. MASTER ICE PLANT, Kulai, Mangalore-575019.
42	PHM-17	M/s. DARIA ICE & COLD STORAGE, New South Wharf, Old Port, Bunder, Mangalore-575001.
43	PHM-18	M/s. RAVICHANDRIKA ICE PLANT, Mulihithlu, Bolar, Mangalore-575001.
44	PHM-19	M/s. SRI SATHYA ICE PLANT, Nireshwalya Road, Casba bazar, bundar, Mangalore-575001.
45	PHM-20	M/s. SRI KAVRI ICE PLANT, opp. Karnataka bank, N.H.66, Trasi, Kundapura Taluk.
46	PHM-21	M/s. SRI MATHA ICE PRODUCTS, opp. Karnataka bank, N.H.66, Trasi, Kundapura Taluk.

The objections/suggestions mainly pertain to:

- a. Tariff;
- b. Quality of Power Supply and Service;
- c. Standards of Performance; 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**. MESCOM has not provided replies to objections received vide objection No.MB-13, MB-14.

**3.3** List of the persons, who were listed for oral submissions during the Public Hearing, held on 21.02.2022:

SL. No.	Names & Addresses of Objectors
1	Sri. B. A. Nazeer, Director, Kanara Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Bunder, Mangalore.
2	Sri. C. A. Abdul Rahman, Treasurer, KCCI.
3	Sri. Isaac Vas, President, Kanara Industries Association (KIA), Baikampady, Mangalore.
4	Sri. Devadas Shettigar, Karnataka ICE Plant Association.
5	Sri. Rajendra Suvarna, Karnataka ICE Plant Association.
6	Sri. Udaya Kumar, Karnataka ICE Plant Association.
7	Sri. Ashok Kaveri, Kaveri ICE Plant Association.
8	Sri. Ramakrishnasharma Bantakallu, Udupi District Krushika Sangha.
9	Sri. Ravindhra Gujjarabettu, Udupi District Krushika Sangha.
10	Sri. K. N. Venkatagiri, Sagar.
11	Sri. Vishwanath, Biddmar, Mangalore.
12	Sri. Sathyanarayana Udupa, Chief Secretary, Bharatiya Kisan Sangha (R), Udupi District.
13	Sri. Suresh Nayak, Mangalore.
14	Sri. Ravindra, Contractor, Kundhapura.
15	Sri. Sunil Vas, Electrical Contractor.
16	Sri. K. Ummer. Universal Electrical Contractor, Mangalore.

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

- 1) In general, the stakeholders opposed the Tariff hike, as there is an economic slowdown due to COVID-19, by which small scale industries are closing down their businesses and requested, not to increase the tariff.
- 2) The tariff for Ice Plant and Cold Storage units are on the higher side compared with neighboring States like Kerala and Goa. Due to which, the owners of the ice plants are not in a position to repay their loan amount and as a consequence, several ice plants have been closed down and several are in

verge of closure. The ice plants will function seasonally and it was requested for lower (by Rs 2 to 4 per unit) and separate tariff for ice plants.

- 3) More and more consumers are moving to Open Access due to tariff hikes and there is need to bring back these consumers back to MESCOM grid by reducing the tariffs.
- 4) The per unit cost of some of the plants like BTPS and UPCL are on higher side.
- 5) In the power exchanges the power is available at much cheaper rate compared to MESCOM tariff.
- 6) The fixed charges need to be reduced.
- 7) The DTC metering is not completed 100% and hence the IP set consumption is inaccurate and hence distribution loss indicated is not correct. As a pilot project, IP set metering shall be done fully in Udupi District.
- 8) Maintenance of lines is very poor and this loss is included in IP set consumption. Further, IP set consumer needs to be enlightened on importance of water and its saving alongside saving of power.
- 9) Low Voltage problems needs to be sorted out.
- 10) MESCOM has carried out good work during COVID-19.
- 11) Introduction of prepaid meters will bring discipline and will avoid payment of deposits.
- 12) Cross subsidy charges towards Agriculture needs to be reduced.
- 13) Efficiency of MESCOM should improve.
- 14) Storage of power needs to be encouraged.
- 15) Special incentive schemes shall be encouraged.
- 16) Supply from alternate feeders to avoid power interruption is to be made mandatory.
- 17) Consumer meets are not conducted regularly.
- 18) School Students shall be encouraged to learn about savings in energy.
- 19) Amount to be released/Balance subsidies from the Government shall be collected and same will result in taking loan from the banks and payment of interest.
- 20) Suo-motu compensation shall be issued for any deviation from the Standards of Performance by MESCOM. Requested for a pilot study in one Sub-Division by

the Third party regarding the implementation of Standards of Performance and its deviations.

- 21) The no. of Electrical accidents shall be reduced and requested the Commission to bring Regulations or standards of performance on electrical accidents.
- 22) There is a need for new formula to be determined for Akrama-Sakrama of IP Sets.
- 23) Regulations is needed on utilization of Consumer Welfare funds. The same should be utilized in educating the consumers through workshops. In the workshops presentations may be made in kannada on various aspects involving the consumer. Utilizing the Consumer Welfare fund towards construction of Anganavadi Building is not encourageable.
- 24) Requested for Concession in fixed charges for Senior Citizens.
- 25) Reduction in distribution loss is appreciable. However, even with reduction in distribution loss, increase in tariff is objectionable.
- 26) HT:LT Ratio is in the ratio of 1:2 is appreciable.
- 27) Hydro allocation is very minimal to MESCOM, which is not correct.
- 28) Employee shortage needs to be handled appropriately instead of outsourcing.
- 29) Capital investment shall be approved based on previous years achievements.
- 30) Applications for connections are available only with contractors, which is objectionable.
- 31) The contractors are collecting excess amount in the name of officers of the MESCOM, including Managing Director.
- 32) Vigilance activity needs more attention towards temporary connections.
- 33) The Vigilance squad has reduced the booked amount from Rs.8 lakhs to Rs. 30,000.
- 34) Quality materials are not being procured.
- 35) The minimum charges towards the bills shall be in line with the Kerala State.
- 36) Delhi Distribution Company shall be taken as a model.
- 37) Sever problems in the distribution system have be resolved by up-grading the system.

**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 directs MESCOM to look into the unresolved issues and attend to them on priority.