

**MINUTES OF 17<sup>TH</sup> STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE,**

**HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER, 2014.**

Shri G.K.Sharma, Secretary, RERC welcomed all Members of the State Advisory Committee. He, at the outset, introduced the Chairman and Members of the Commission to the Committee, and thereafter the discussions on the agenda followed:

**Item No.17/1 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 16<sup>TH</sup> Meeting of the State Advisory Committee:**

Secretary, informed that no comments have been received except from Shri K.L.Vyas on the circulated minutes. Shri Vyas has drawn the attention of the Commission towards some amendments, suggested by him to the supply code to avoid possibility of consumer harassment by the field officers of the Discoms.

Chairman, mentioned that the Commission is contemplating to issue a Concept Paper on the amendments needed for the Supply Code and the proposals of Shri Vyas will be considered alongwith the other suggestions/proposals received from Discoms/consumers, while making the amendments to the Supply Code.

The minutes were then confirmed.

**Item No.17/2 : Action Taken Report**

**(i) 5% Rebate for defective meters:**

The Chairman observed that it has come to the notice of the Commission that order No. JPD-6/398 issued by Jaipur Discom is indicating applicability of 5% rebate only in cases, where meters remain defective, for more than **12 months** from the date of its detection. He categorically mentioned

that the order is contrary to the Statutory Supply Code and cannot be issued and therefore shall be withdrawn forthwith and Discom shall take action in accordance with Supply Code. Secretary, Energy mentioned that the Discoms shall fully comply with the RERC Code.

**(ii) Non Compliance of Infra State ABT Regulations:**

RVPNL informed that tenders for necessary software have been received and they are processing the same and the price bids will be opened shortly.

The Chairman directed RVPNL to expedite the process.

**(iii) Recovery of compounding charges and assessment amount, in case of theft:**

The Secretary mentioned that the issue discussed earlier stands resolved by the latest decision of Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan in case of Deshmesh Oil Factory V/s JVVNL and as per the judgement, both civil liability and compounding charges can be recovered independently of each other as per the provisions of Electricity Act 2003.

**Suggestions by Sh.K.L.Jain, vide his communication dated 22.1.2014:**

Shri K.L.Jain, stated that in the electricity bills, other charges are being included and on account of this, the per unit cost of electricity of Rajasthan looks more when the investors from the other States make comparison with the rates in other States and this may dissuade them from making investments in Rajasthan.

Chairman appreciated the view, but pointed out that the charges that are being included, are statutory and therefore he may raise this issue with the Government.

**Suggestions by the North Western Railway, vide his communication dated 29/30.1.2014**

The Chief Engineer, Railway complained that there are still many places, where the RTGS/NEFT facility is not there. He mentioned that roughly, there are 15 such locations.

Chairman directed the Discoms to take appropriate action.

**Item No.17/3 : Revised Standards of Performance for the three Distribution Companies:**

Chairman mentioned that the Discoms were advised from time to time, to intimate their preparedness for implementation of Standards of Performance, issued by the Commission, but the Discoms had not responded. He called upon the Discoms to take necessary steps immediately to implement the standards of performance, which are statutory and have come into force.

**Item No.17/4 : Consumer's Education:**

The subject was discussed. Shri K.L.Vyas brought to the notice of members "Jago Grahak" campaign initiated by the Central Government and he desired the Government and the Commission, to take steps to spread awareness of Consumers' rights and Consumers' education.

Shri Deepak Saxena of CUTS mentioned that they are involved in the process of Consumers' education, for last 15 years and are prepared to associate with any initiative taken to educate consumers.

Chairman mentioned that the Commission is proposing to earmark some funds for the Consumers' education. He also expressed concern over the lack of safety measures in the field and asked the Discoms to take remedial measures to prevent loss of human life by taking up awareness programme with the employees/officers.

Shri Doshi, M.D., JVVNL mentioned that they were giving complete training etc. to the labourers, to avoid fatal accidents.

Appreciating the initiatives already taken by Discoms Chairman suggested to make education of consumers/employees more meaningful.

**Additional Agenda Item No.1 - Issues raised by Sh.K.L.Vyas vide his email dated 18.11.2014.**

Shri Vyas expressed concern that Vigilance Checking Reports are being kept pending for months and the Consumer Courts as well Ombudsman, decline to hear the above matters, resulting in consumers' agony. The Chairman mentioned that the matter would be taken care of at the time of amendment in the Supply Code Regulations.

Shri Vyas also raised the issue of ToD tariff for the consumers. The Chairman explained at length that in Rajasthan, the demand curve is flat, so ToD tariff is not advisable.

Shri Vyas also advocated the need for developing the load demand during night hours, as the power is cheaper during that period. The Secretary, Energy assured that the issue will be examined.

**Additional Agenda Item No.2 - Miscellaneous Items:**

Additional Labour Commissioner from Labour Department raised the safety issue of labour, working in the power sector. He expressed concern that proper safety equipments are not given to labour. He further explained that due to accidents to labourers, sometimes, law and order problem also arises, as the mob demands the compensation, on the spot itself.

Shri Ranawat , MD , Ajmer Discom, mentioned that they are providing safety measures including gloves etc. for complete safety of the labours.

Chairman, mentioned that normally the safety instruments that are provided to the labourers, are not used in the field. Therefore he stated that Discom should launch a safety education drive. He further advised that general safety education to children in schools and colleges may also be taken up, so that younger generation become aware how electrical accidents can be avoided.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

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