

MINUTES OF THE 18TH STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH JUNE 2015

The 18th meeting of the State Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, 24th June 2015 in the Conference Hall of the Commission, under the chairmanship of Shri Vishwanath Hiremath, Chairman, RERC. The list of the participants is appended at Annexure-1.

At the outset, Shri G.K.Sharma, Secretary, RERC welcomed all Members of the State Advisory Committee and thereafter, the discussions on the agenda, followed.

Agenda Item : **Confirmation of the minutes of 17th meeting**
No.18/1 : **of State Advisory Committee.**

Secretary informed that no comments have been received on the minutes of 17th meeting, circulated vide Commission's letter No.1220 dated 4th December, 2014. Accordingly, the Members confirmed the minutes of the meeting.

Agenda Item : **Action Taken Report in respect of the 17th**
No.18/2 : **Meeting of the State Advisory Committee.**

(a) 5% Rebate for defective meters:

It was informed to the Committee that the order relaxing the existing Regulations regarding allowing rebate for non replacement of defective meters has been withdrawn by Discoms.

(b) Non compliance of Intra State ABT Regulations:

The progress, as intimated by the RVPN, vide its letter No.439 dated 19th June 2015, was noted.

(c) Suggestions by the North Western Railway vide communication dated 29/30.1.2014 :

The Discoms intimated that instructions have been issued to accept payment of Railway bills, through RTGS/NEFT. The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer admitted that there was marked improvement after the decision taken by the

Committee in the last meeting regarding providing RTGS/NEFT facility for payment of bills. Chairman, desired that individual problems need not be taken up for discussion in Advisory meeting.

(d) Revised Standards of Performance for the three Distribution Companies:

It was informed that necessary decision to implement the SoP Regulations have been imparted by Discoms to field officers.

(e) Consumer Education:

Action taken by Jaipur & Jodhpur Discom, as brought out in the agenda, was appraised and the same was noted.

(f) Safety Measures:

Action taken by Jaipur & Jodhpur Discom, as brought out in the agenda, was appraised and the same was noted.

Agenda Item No.18/3 : Issuance of Domestic & NDS bills on monthly basis, in place of bi-monthly frequency.

The Chairman indicated the background of the proposal, mentioning that possibility may be explored by the Distribution Companies for switching over of billing of LT Domestic and Non Domestic consumers, from bi-monthly to monthly basis.

Shri P.N.Bhandari was of the view that quantum of revenue involved, particularly for domestic category was not so significant as to justify monthly billing considering the additional costs involved.

Shri D.S.Agrawal opined that a beginning may be made by resorting to monthly billing of high category consumers whose consumption was more than 500 units.

M.D.Ajmer Discoms, Shri K.L.Vyas and other Members also raised the issue of additional cost involved which will be much more as compared to the benefit.

The Chairman stated that since the Discoms had to pay to generating Companies on monthly basis and lot of defaults were being reported to the Commission, it may be prudent to have monthly revenue from all consumers. He advised to implement latest technologies of online billing, AMR etc. at least for industrial and non-domestic consumers who contribute more to the revenue.

Principal Secretary, Energy mentioned that they have already floated a tender enquiry, envisaging a pilot project, wherein the automated readings shall be generated in respect of each consumer.

The Chairman concluded by saying that the proposal may be examined to see as to how the Discoms can implement the monthly billing in these two categories, in a phased manner. He also mentioned that in Maharashtra latest technology for billing exists. A team of Discoms may visit there to study the same

**Agenda Item : Consumer Education.
No.18/4**

The Chairman desired to have suggestions from Discoms regarding spending the amount allowed by the Commission for consumer education and awareness. He informed that although Commission on its own was working on it, but without active involvement of Discoms, it was not possible to achieve the desired results. The Discoms, therefore, have to prepare an action plan in this regard.

**Agenda Item : Avoidance of electrocution incidences in
No.18/5 the State, by revamping the
distribution/transmission network.**

Shri Hemant Kumar Gera, Managing Director, Ajmer Discom cited a particular case study, wherein, many people had died of electrocution. He expressed that after enquiry, it emerged that out of the reported casualties, a few had occurred in the victims' own houses, one having died while connecting the telephone-charger in

the plug which was faulty. Other few deaths had occurred while the persons were trying to place the hooks to the overhead transmission lines, to steal electricity.

The Chairman also mentioned that the Commission is willing to provide approval of any expenditure towards improvement of the existing system to avoid accidents.

Principal Secretary, Energy mentioned that the three Discoms are already identifying the high risk /thickly populated areas, where major improvement has to be made to avoid accidents.

Chairman also observed that in most of the accident cases, the grounding was not done properly and rather sub-standard material was used in many households, for internal wiring, putting the premises at grave risk. He suggested that the CEA's regulations towards safety have to be strictly observed by Discoms.

The Chairman desired that as per requirement of the Act, a report of accidents should also come to the Commission.

Agenda Item No.18/6 : Issues sent by Shri D.S.Agrawal, Member of the Committee for discussion.

Shri D.S.Agrawal, Member briefed the Committee about the issues, raised by him.

The meeting ended, with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
