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Current News
மின் செய்திகள்

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Assessing TANGEDCO's Compliance to Distribution Standards of Performance (DSOP): An Analysis of RTI Data for the Year 2016 (Part -4)

The previous issue explained the methodology of the analysis and this section of the editorial explains about the various sections of the said regulations in details.

2. Temporary supply

The licensee should provide temporary supply for consumers applying under categories such as construction of residential houses, complexes, commercial complexes, industrial premises within the prescribed time schedule provided in the table below.

Category	Time Schedule for LT
Extension and improvement without distribution transformers	60 days
Extension and improvement with distribution transformers	90 days
Compensation for consumers in case of failure to meet the above standards: Rs.100/- per day of delay subject to maximum of Rs.1000/-	

3. Shifting of service connection / deviation of lines and shifting of equipments

As specified in the Tamil Nadu electricity supply code, the charges for shifting of service connection have to be borne by the consumer. The licensee is expected to shift the existing service connection after the payment. The prescribed time schedule for shifting of existing service connection.

Category	Time Schedule for LT
Shifting Meter/service	25 days
Shifting of LT/HT line	60 days
Shifting of Transformer Structure	90 days
Compensation for consumers in case of failure to meet the above standards: Rs.100/- per day of delay subject to maximum of Rs.1000/-	

4. Transfer of service connection

Transfer of service connection should be effected within 7 days from the date of receipt of application from the consumer. If the licensee fails to meet the standards, the affected consumer is eligible for compensation of Rs.100/- per day of delay subject to maximum of Rs.1000/- .

(to be continued...)

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Internet of Things (IoT) (Part – 4)

The application of the Internet of Things (IoT) as related to energy management and agriculture were discussed in the previous issue. This issue will explain application of IoT in other sectors.

c) **Transport**: The Internet of Things (IoT) can change the transport industry by transforming how transportation systems gather and make use of data. The benefits of IoT for transportation authorities are a) Enhanced traveler experience, b) Increased safety, c) Reduced energy use and congestion, and d) Better operational performance. IoT in the transport sector helps a consumer to track the vehicle for its speed, location, and position as to whether it is on the move or parked/stopped somewhere or is in any danger. Smartphones are one of the examples used as IoT in the transport sector. It acts as a sensor; which collects and shares information of the location through mobile applications such as Google Maps. These contribute to traffic monitoring, showing the conditions of different routes. The data collected from all sensors helps in improving the information on the different routes to the same destination, distance, and the estimated time of arrival. With the help of this, a citizen can easily navigate their route with either shorter distances or shorter duration.

d) **Healthcare:** According to Statista Research Department survey of 2019, - which took into account multiple health aspects like nutrition, lifestyle, physical activity levels, immunity, disease affliction and others, - over 70% of women and 59% of men were found unhealthy. It is important to take care of individual health since doctors can not diagnose everyone at all the times. IoT in the healthcare sector helps in monitoring individual body functions to some extent. Wearables like fitness bands will help people to monitor the individual heart rate, calories burned based on the physical exercises or physical works, and some even monitor sleep patterns and suggest healthy remedies. Recently, a smart watch has saved the life of a senior citizen by indicating irregular heartbeats.

Image 1: Fitness band: image source - IoT Design Pro

e) **Water management**: Water is the most valuable resource which needs to be utilised properly. Nowadays, many cities are facing water scarcity due to the poor management of resources. It is believed that almost half of the world population will face water scarcity by 2025. Consider, when there is a leak in a pipe line or taps, about 6 litres to 15 litres of water will be wasted in a day. Such incidents can be prevented by installing an IoT based water valve that can be controlled remotely. In water management, IoT plays a significant role in conserving water and helps in efficient use of water in all the sectors. It is every individual's responsibility to promote intergenerational equity by maintaining and handing over the resources to the future generations. IoT will play a vital role in this process.

Image 2: Remote shut-off valve control; Image source - Aquana

(to be continued...)

Tamil Nadu News

Tangedco's 1st hydel project in Trichy

A 20-megawatt hydroelectric power project at a cost of Rs 338 crore has been commissioned near Puliyancholi, where a non-perennial water stream comes alive after rains in Kolli Hills. Located at about 77km from Trichy, this lesser known tourist spot may soon become an integral part of the tourist map of Trichy.

Tangedco is raising its first ever hydroelectric power project in Trichy region by utilizing water from Puliyancholai stream originating from Kolli hills. According to senior officials from Tangedco, Trichy, total five weir – small barriers-- will be built across water stream to generate hydro power by channelising the water through Penstock lines, an enclosed pipe that delivers water to hydro turbines. A power house, switch yard, Penstock line and approach bridges will be housed in Puliyancholai. "Apart from penstock lines, winch system will also be part of the project for maintenance of the power plant and these structures will attract tourists," said M Vishnu, assistant engineer Tangedco, Trichy.

The project will impact economy of nearby villages by boosting tourism, said Trichy district tourism officer T. Jegatheswari.

She said Puliyancholai attracts tourists only for a few months in a year when the water stream gains momentum. With this project, we are exploring the possibility of converting this place into a perennial tourism attraction. We are planning a park in Puliyancholai besides ensuring, changing area, toilets and parking area, she said. It may take another two years for the project to be completed, officials said.

Source: The Times of India, September 28, 2020

India News

Power ministry issues Standard Bidding Document for discoms' privatisation

The Union ministry of power has drafted a 'Standard Bidding Document' (SBD) for the privatisation of the state-owned power distribution companies. This will be the guiding document for state governments that want to offer their discoms to private companies.This is the first time the central government has drafted a guiding SBD for discoms' privatisation. It is in line with the Centre's efforts to improve the operations and finances of state discoms. Last year, the ministry of power had suggested several private franchisee models to states for the power distribution sector. The stakeholders can send their comments by October 5, 2020.The power sector follows a federal structure, wherein distribution is a state subject and the Centre has a guiding role. However, generation and transmission come under the central government.

Recently, under the Atmanirbhar Bharat package the Centre announced that discoms in all Union Territories will be privatised. Currently, only a few cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Agra, have private discoms.The power ministry has said in the SBD, "The proposals are essentially being presented with an aim of initiating discussions and soliciting inputs from stakeholders on the SBDs" and in no way represent the views of the ministry or its officials.The SBD contains the format for 'Request for Proposal', shareholders' agreement, share acquisition agreement, policy directions and bulk supply agreement.The ministry has suggested several options that the states can choose while offering the discoms for privatisation. These include suggestions on stake of state governments in the power distribution company, ranging from zero (no involvement) to minority stake of 26 per cent. The other alternatives are regarding the power purchase agreements that would be transferred from the existing discom in an area to the private entity and the bid parameter to be dependent on reduction of losses.State-owned discoms have been financially and operationally beleaguered for two decades. There have been three reform schemes in the past to revive them but have failed.

Source: Business Standard, September 22, 2020

Consumer Focus

The petitioner is a domestic consumer who has availed two service connections for the first floor and ground floor of his house under the same tariff in the month of April 2017. In November 2018, TANGEDCO's Assistant Engineer, issued a notice to disconnect one service connection within 7 days saying that two service connections at same tariff in the same compound are not permitted. On receiving the notice, the petitioner visited the section office and explained that the house is registered with two different door numbers. The line assistant and wireman demanded inspection of the house.

However, in April 2019, the Assistant Engineer, ordered the line assistant and wire man to disconnect one service connection, without any prior written intimation to the consumer. When the consumer checked the online account summary, the reason for disconnection was mentioned as "upon request by the consumer". The petitioner, however, never requested for disconnection of service connection. The petitioner registered a complaint with the Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum (CGRF) asking to reconnect the service connection. CGRF dismissed the case highlighting the TNERC Distribution Code 27(14), (15) and (15A) and stating that since there was no physical segregation between the floors, the utility was right is disconnecting the service. Aggrieved by the order, the petitioner appealed to the Electricity Ombudsman. During the Ombudsman hearing, the TANGEDCO officials stated that the notice was issued for the merger of two domestic service connections and not for disconnection. Upon inspection, it was observed that the petitioner's house was a duplex model building which comprises ground floor and first floor without physical segregation. As per TNERC Distribution Code 27(13), it is stated that "*Within a door number or sub door number, an establishment or person will not be given more than one service connection without permanent physical segregation*". *Since the petitioner did not come forward to merge the two service connections within seven days as mentioned in the notice, action was taken by Assistant Engineer to merge the service connection.*

The official also clarified that, according to the TANGEDCO website, merging of service connections was displayed as "*permanent dismantling by consumer request*". *But it was displayed rightly as "Merging of Service connection" in the LT billing software of TANGEDCO and also in the consumer ledger. He informed that necessary steps will be taken to modify the status on the website. The official concluded that there was no violation in the matter and informed the petitioner may avail three phase service connection if the connected load is increased above 4 KW. Based on this, the officials requested to dismiss the petition.* On hearing the arguments from both the parties, the electricity Ombudsman stated that, since there is no permanent physical segregation between ground floor and first floor, the petitioner's request for reconnecting the service connection could not be considered. Further, if the petitioner undertakes a proper physical separation of both the floors and applies for a new service connection, the same may be considered by the TANGEDCO officials. Thus, the Ombudsman upheld the decision of the CGRF and disposed of the case.

Source: Ombudsman Case

ECC VOICE

இராணிப்பேட்டை மாவட்டம், தக்கோலம் கிராமத்தில் வசிக்கும் திரு. முகமது ர்ஃபி என்பவர், தங்கள் பகுதியில் மின் கம்பிகள் மிக தாழ்வாக உள்ளதாகவும் அதனால் விபத்து ஏற்படும் ஆபத்து உள்ளதாகவும் மின்வாரிய ஊழியரிடம் புகார் அளித்துள்ளார். மேலும் சீரற்ற மின்னழுத்தம் ஏற்படுவதாகவும் கூறியுள்ளார். ஆனால், அவரின் புகாருக்கு எந்தவித நடவடிக்கையும் மேற்கொள்ளப்படவில்லை. எனவே அவர், வேலூர் மின் நுகர்வோர் மையத்தினை தொடர்பு கொண்டு தங்களது பிரச்சனைகளை கூறி புகாராக அளித்தார். வேலூர் மின் நுகர்வோர் மையத்தின் மின் ஆலோசகர் திரு. பலராமன் அவர்கள் அவ்விடத்திற்கு சென்று, தாழ்வாக உள்ள மின் கம்பிகளை பார்வையிட்டார். அவை பல வருட காலமாக மாற்றப்படாமல், லோயர் கேஜ் கம்பிகளாக இருப்பதனால் தான் சீரற்ற மின்னழுத்தம் ஏற்படுகிறது என்பதை உணர்ந்தார். பின்பு அப்பகுதியின் மின்வாரிய உதவி பொறியாளரை தொலைபேசி மூலம் தொடர்பு கொண்டு, இப்புகாரினை விவரித்தார். மேலும் அக்கம்பிகளை மாற்றி புதிய ஹையர் கேஜ் கம்பிகளாக அமைத்து கொடுக்குமாறு வேண்டுகோள் விடுத்தார். அதன்பிறகு சம்மந்தப்பட்ட அதிகாரிகள் அந்தப் பகுதியை பார்வையிட்டு, மின்கம்பிகளை மாற்றி தருவதாக அப்பகுதி மக்களிடம் உறுதி அளித்தனர். பின்பு, அவர்கள் கூறியவாறு பழைய லோயர் கேஜ் கம்பிகளை மாற்றி, புதிய ஹையர் கேஜ் கம்பிகளை அமைத்துக்கொடுத்தனர். நீண்ட காலமாக தொடர்ந்து வந்த இப்பிரச்சனைகளுக்கு தக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுத்து உதவிய வேலூர் மின் நுகர்வோர் மையத்திற்கும், மின் ஆலோசகர் திரு.பலராமன் அவர்களுக்கும் திரு முகமது ர்ஃபி மற்றும் அப்பகுதி பொதுமக்கள் தங்கள் நன்றியினை தெரிவித்தனர்.

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Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) is a non-profit, non-political and professional organization that works towards protecting citizen's rights in consumer and environmental issues and promoting good governance processes including transparency, accountability and participatory decision making.

World News

Current News

South Africa to procure 6.8 GW of renewables under new programme

The South African government will organise a procurement programme for 11,813 MW of new power infrastructure, including 6,800 MW set aside for renewable energy. The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy said that the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) has concurred with its ministerial determination issued in February 2020 to procure additional capacity.

In a separate statement, South African utility Eskom stated that it welcomes NERSA's decision. The procurement will open up a number of bid windows, including Bid Window 5 (BW 5) for renewable energy capacity. About 6,800 MW of wind and photovoltaic (PV), 513 MW of storage, 3,000 MW of gas-fired capacity and 1,500 MW from coal-based plants will be up for bidding.

The programme will enable the development of 11,813 MW of power from the year 2022, the Department said. "Given the current supply constraints, this additional generation capacity is urgently required, and will be an important contribution towards ending loadshedding and ensuring energy security for the country," Eskom CEO Andre de Ruyter commented following NERSA's decision.

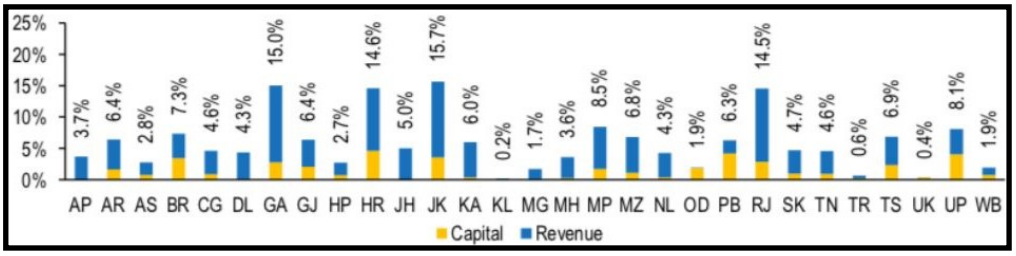
The additional capacity is to come on top of the 2,000 MW of emergency power currently being procured under the technology agnostic Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer Programme (RMIPPP).The new procurement programme is in line with South Africa's Integrated Resources Plan (IRP 2019), which sets the country's energy agenda through 2030. The IRP 2019 leaves gigawatts worth of space for renewable, but coal will remain the biggest source of electricity for South Africa due to its abundance.

Source: Renewables Now, September 15, 2020

Publications / Regulations

- Clarification for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme, MNRE
- Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2020, IRENA, 2020
- Scenarios for the Energy Transition: Global experience and best practices, IRENA, 2020

Share of State Government Budget on Energy Sector



Source: IEEFA.org