

Organisations Governing Tamil Nadu and Indian Electricity Sector

This article seeks to educate the readers about various organizations which are responsible for the power sector in Tamil Nadu and India. They form the focal points in the policy debates in the electricity sector. These organizations also play a vital role in Tamil Nadu in crossing several milestones such as becoming a leader in renewable energy generation, including implementation of the [Vision 2023](#) plan of the Government of Tamil Nadu adding 20,000 MW capacity of thermal power and 10,000 MW of renewable energy by 2023.

Electricity comes under the [Concurrent List](#) in the Constitution of India with both the Centre and State have the power to formulate and implement policies relating to the development of the electricity sector. Presently, the sector is mandated by the [Electricity Act 2003](#). At the Central level, the primary responsibility rests with the [Ministry of Power](#) which evolves general Policy in the electric power sector, R & D, development and technical assistance, rural electrification, development of scheme related to power supply, transmission and distribution. [The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy \(MNRE\)](#) is the scientific Ministry of the Government of India to develop and deploy new and renewable energy for supplementing the energy requirements of the country. MNRE facilitates research, design, development and manufacture of renewable energy systems, coordinates the National Solar Mission and standards, specifications and performance parameters for RE deployment. [Bureau of Energy Efficiency \(BEE\)](#) was set up in 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity. The main functions are to promote research and development, develop testing and certification procedures and promote testing facilities, promote innovative financing of energy efficiency projects, provide financial assistance to institutions, strengthen consultancy services in the field of energy conservation etc.

In Tamil Nadu, the generation of electricity and its associated functions in the state dates back to 1927 with the first small hydro power plants setup in Nilgiris. [Energy department](#) of the Government of Tamil Nadu is the policy body. It manages and overlooks the proper functioning of all the energy related departments in Tamil Nadu. The Department will present the budget for the development of the sector in the state through an annual [Policy Note](#) tabled in the Assembly by the state Energy Minister. The [Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission \(TNERC\)](#) is the state regulatory agency whose main role is to rationalise tariffs and in formulating and promoting transparent policies regarding subsidies. As the regulator, it regulates the tariff or price at which electricity is sold to consumers. For efficient operation of the electricity sector, TNERC issues various regulations related to electricity supply, distribution, open access, procurement of renewable energy and consumer grievance redressal.

The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB), formed in 1957, under the [Electricity Supply Act of 1948](#) as an integrated utility is responsible for the generation, transmission and distribution of power. TNEB was restructured in 2010 with TNEB Limited becoming a holding company with two subsidiaries named [Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited \(TANGEDCO\)](#) and [Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited \(TANTRANSCO\)](#). TANGEDCO is responsible for power generation and distribution while the latter is responsible for transmission of power. [Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency \(TEDA\)](#), formed in 1985, is a nodal agency to promote and undertake research and development renewable energy in the state. The [Electrical Inspectorate Department](#) is responsible for ensuring compliance of the safety provisions in electrical installations and is the State Designated Agency (SDA) of Bureau of Energy Efficiency for energy efficiency schemes in Tamil Nadu. The [Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited \(TNPFIDC\)](#) was formed in 1991 as a Non Banking finance company. The primary role of the company is to mobilize resources and funds for lending to the power sector in the state, particularly, to activities related to generation, transmission and distribution of the state utilities.

Electricity Contacts

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- Pay online: [TNEBNET](#)

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Tamil Nadu News

Cyclone and Power Supply Situation in Tamil Nadu

The power supply network in Chennai and the neighboring districts of Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur suffered a massive blow due to Cyclone Vardah. Thousands of concrete poles fell like nine pins, high tension towers were flattened, overhead power lines snapped, and distribution transformers damaged. The cyclone caused a massive financial loss to the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO).

A massive repair operation was required, involving workmen from various parts of the State and it took more than a week for the power supply to be restored in the city, particularly on the outskirts. A senior official said that as on Tuesday, more than 32,000 poles had been replaced in the three districts. Leaving the main parts of Chennai, where electricity is supplied by underground power lines, the extension areas of the city such as Madipakkam, Medavakkam, Tambaram, Chengalpattu, Sholinganallur, Avadi and Pattabhiram have overhead power lines supported by concrete poles.

In south Chennai, comprising Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts, 20,000 damaged poles have been replaced. In addition, the conductors fixed on the electricity poles were replaced for a length of 15,000 km.

The power supply in the city was affected because of trees falling on distribution transformers and pillar boxes. As many as 800 transformers and 4,500 pillar boxes had been repaired. The cyclone also affected 1,850 MW power generation in Tamil Nadu. Two units of the North Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS) (600 AND 200 MW stopped functioning. Similarly, two 220 MW units at Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) also stopped operating.

Stocks of poles kept in 42 circles in the State came in handy for TANGEDCO. About 30,000 electricity poles were brought from various parts of the State and 2,000-3,000 poles from Andhra Pradesh.

According to officials, over 50 high tension towers fell down, leading to large-scale disruption to the power supply. The estimated loss from uprooted poles was around Rs. 65 crore.

TANGEDCO had issued a list of precautionary measures for consumers to avoid electrical accidents in areas where power supply is restored after the water has receded.

1. Dry all the electrical gadgets like fridge, TV, washing machines etc. thoroughly and get it checked by an electrician before turning them back on
2. Do not touch wet meter boxes, switches and wires
3. Get the internal wiring checked by the electrician
4. If there is leakage in the internal wiring, wet walls will give an electric shock. If the walls are wet, switch off the mains and ask an electrician to check for leakage
5. Do not touch electric poles, pillar boxes and street light poles
6. Do not dry clothes on electric conductors or wires
7. Inform Electricity Department if you notice any snapped wires
8. Inform the Electricity Department if you notice a spark in transformers or pillar boxes

Source: [The Hindu](#), December 28, 2016

India News

Consumers May Get Direct Subsidy On Electricity Soon

An expert panel comprised of senior officials from states and industry are examining the matter to provide direct subsidy on electricity to consumer. The panel will present its report to the power ministry in January.

The scheme of direct transfer of subsidy on electricity is suggested by the expert committee to target consumers to increase electricity demand. This scheme will target the consumer in the manner similar to what has been done in case of LPG cylinder for plugging leakages and bringing down the subsidy burden.

The scheme is being advocated by the industry experts and Niti Aayog to lower subsidy, prevent its misuse and strengthening power distribution utilities.

The expert committee comprises principal energy secretaries of states like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and energy secretaries of Tamil Nadu and Bihar, besides top officials of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the Central Electricity Authority.

Under the direct benefit transfer scheme for cooking fuel, LPG cylinders are sold at market rates after which after which the bank accounts of the consumers eligible for subsidy are credited with the amount of subsidy.

Currently, subsidy is calculated as the difference between energy sold and amount collected. If the direct benefit transfer scheme is implemented, only the actual consumption, and not power pilferage and losses, will be subsidized.

The committee is in the process of finalizing its recommendations which will be sent to the power ministry for action. In fair business practice, state electricity regulators declare subsidy amount at the beginning of every financial year and the state governments are obligated to make quarterly payments to electricity distribution companies. But when the subsidy payment is delayed, financial conditions of discoms deteriorate. Source: [The Economic Times](#), December 29, 2016

Consumer Focus

CGRF is an avenue established by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) in 2004 as per section 42 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (Act No: 36 of 2003). Consumers, who have grievances regarding new service connection, delay in effecting new service connection, change of defective meters, dispute in electricity consumption billing, non-attending to faults and similar such grievances can approach the CGRF located in each circle.

Facts

In this case petition no. 64, the Appellant resides in Alwarpet, Chennai. His meter is assessed bimonthly. He claims that the assessment does not take place on fixed dates. This irregularity leads to situation where the consumption is display to be higher than 500 units which is the slab where the billing is shifted to a higher rate. Later when complained to authority with regard to the irregularity of the assessment, an extra amount Rs. 500 was levied for the testing of the meter. He claimed for bringing regularity in assessment but was provided with a different service.

The Respondent claimed that the billing was correct and meter performance was up to the mark (Irrelevant claim made by the respondent).

Contestation

Appellant: To regularize the assessment of the meter and refund the amount taken for providing irrelevant service.

Respondent: The billing was correct and the meter had a satisfactory performance.

Judgment

- The Forum held that delay in assessment has led to overcharging. The appellant had to pay Rs. 962 extra for the delay. This delay is not acceptable.
- Appellant had complained for the irregularity but was instead provided with a service which he had not requested for. In addition to that, a miscellaneous charge of Rs. 500 was imposed on the consumer (appellant). The Forum held this action to be incorrect. It directed the respondents to refund that amount.
- Forum ordered the Board to regulate the functioning and to see that the assessment is done within the period of 60 days. Delay is held to be unacceptable.

ECC Voice

மின் சக்தி என்பது நமது அன்றாடத் தேவைகளில் பெரும்பங்கு வகித்து நமது வாழ்வின் முக்கிய அங்கமாகிவிட்டது. மின் சக்தியை பாதுகாப்புடன் பயன்படுத்துவது மிகவும் இன்றியமையாதது. இந்த மின்சக்தியை பாதுகாப்புடன் பயன்படுத்துவதில் எர்த்திங் (நுயசுவாபெ) முறை மிக முக்கிய பங்கு வகிக்கிறது. நமது வீடுகளில் உள்ள மின் இணைப்புகளில் ஒரு தாமிரத்தாலான கம்பியானது மின் மீட்டர், மற்றும் மெயின் சுவிட்ச் இவற்றுடன் இணைக்கப்பட்டு அது இரும்புக்குழாய் வழியாக நிலத்தில் பாய்ச்சப்பட்டிருக்கும். இந்த எர்த்திங் மீது நாம் அதிகம் கவனம் செலுத்துவது இல்லை. புதிய மின் இணைப்பு பெறும்போது இது அமைக்கப்படும். இதன் மீது எந்த பராமரிப்பும் நாம் மேற்கொள்வது இல்லை. இந்த எர்த்திங் மின் பாதுகாப்பு அம்சத்தில் மிகவும் முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்தது என்பது நம்மில் எத்தனை பேருக்குத் தெரியும்?

சில நேரங்களில் நமது வீடுகளில் உள்ள மின் கட்டமைப்புகளில் ஏற்படும் மின்கசிவை இந்த எர்த்திங் கம்பிதான் உள் வாங்கி அதை நிலத்திற்கு பாய்ச்சி அதன் மூலம் மின் எரிஇழையை (குரளந் றசைந்) உருகச்செய்து மின் இணைப்பை துண்டித்து நமக்கு பாதுகாப்பளிக்கிறது. நமது இல்லத்தில் அடிக்கடி இவ்வாறு மின் இழை உருகி மின்துண்டிப்பு ஏற்பட்டால் அதை நாம் சாதாரணமாக எடுத்துக் கொள்ளக்கூடாது. மின் கட்டமைப்பு முழுவதையும் நன்கு பரிசோதித்து மின்கசிவு ஏற்பட்டிருந்தால் அதை உடனடியாக சரி செய்ய வேண்டும்.

பயன்பாடும் பராமரிப்பும்:- இந்த எர்த் ஓயரை சரியானபடி நாம் பயன் படுத்த வேண்டும் .நமது வீட்டில் உள்ள மின் மோட்டார்கள் மின்விசிறிகள், கிரைண்டர், மிக்சி, குளிர்சாதன பெட்டி, ஏர்கண்டிஷ்னர், இஸ்திரி பெட்டி, வாட்டர் ஹீட்டர் இவற்றோடு கண்டிப்பாக இணைக்க வேண்டும். வீட்டு சுவற்றில் நாம் பதித்திருக்கும் சுவிட்ச் போர்டில் உள்ள 3பின் சாக்கெட் மற்றும் பிளக்கில், மூன்றாவதாக பருமனாக உள்ள மேல் முனையில் கண்டிப்பாக இந்த எர்த் ஓயரை இணைக்க வேண்டும். மெயின் போர்டில் உள்ள மின் மீட்டர், மெயின் சுவிட்ச் மற்றும் கட்டவுட்டுடன் அது இணைக்கப்பட வேண்டும். இவ்வாறு இணைக்கப்படும்போது, நாம் பயன்படுத்தும் மின் உபகரணங்களில் மின்கசிவு ஏற்படுமாயின் அது இந்த எர்த் ஓயர் மூலம் பூமிக்கு பாய்ச்சப்பட்டு உடனடியாக மின் இணைப்பு துண்டிக்கப்படும். இந்த முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்த எர்த்திங் முறையை சரியான வகையில் பராமரிப்பது மிகவும் அவசியமானதாகும்.

முதலாவதாக இந்த எர்த்திங் கம்பியானது **6எறப** அல்லது **8எறப** என்ற அளவில் உள்ள சுத்த தாமிர கம்பியாக இருத்தல் வேண்டும். இந்த கம்பியானது பூமியிலிருந்து நேரடியாக மெயின் சுவிட்ச் மற்றும் கட்டவுட்டின், மின் மீட்டர் ஆகியவற்றுடன் இணைக்கப்பட வேண்டும். இந்த எர்த் ஓயர் பூமியில் பாய்ச்சப்படும் இடமானது மின்சாரத்தை எளிதில் கடத்துவதற்கு ஏதுவாக ஈரமாக இருத்தல் வேண்டும். இந்த தாமிர கம்பியானது இடையில் எங்கும் அறுபடாமல் முழுமையாக உள்ளதா என அடிக்கடி சோதித்து பார்த்தல் வேண்டும். எர்த் ஓயரில் பராமரிப்பு செய்ய நேர்ந்தால் முழுமையாக மின்சாரத்தை துண்டித்துவிட்டுதான் செய்ய வேண்டும். வீட்டில் மின்சாரம் இருக்கும்போது எர்த் ஓயரில் எந்த பணிகளும் மேற்கொள்ளக்கூடாது. நவீனமான இக்காலங்களில் இந்த எர்த் ஓயரில் குறைபாடு காணப்பட்டால் அதை சமாளிக்கும் விதமாக **நுயசுவா கயரடவ சநடயலன** என்ற உபகரணங்கள் நமக்கு கிடைக்கின்றன. நமது தேவைக்கு ஏற்ப அதை வாங்கி வீடுகளில் பொருத்தி பயன்படுத்தலாம். எர்த் ஓயரை பயன்படுத்தி பாதுகாப்பாக மின்சாரத்தை உபயோகப்படுத்துவோம்.

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

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World News

CPC Resolve Complaints by Electricity Consumers Nationwide

In its determination to resolve the numerous complaints of consumers in the country, the [Consumers Protection Council \(CPC\)](#), an parastatal of the Nigerian government will provide a credible forum, inviting electricity stakeholders. CPC's Director-General Mrs. Dupe Atoki said that the council was also committed to ensuring customer satisfaction in the delivery of electricity services by operators in the country.

The forum, comprising various stakeholders, including consumers from the Lugbe suburb, was designed to hear the various complaints of electricity consumers, ranging from estimated billing, the indiscriminate increase in electricity bills, to non-supply of meters. Others include irregular disconnection, non-supply of transformers, electrical cables, damage to properties from the fluctuation of electricity and unsatisfactorily services by operators in the industry.

The programme was organised to facilitate understanding and cordial relationship between consumers and Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs). It also aimed at facilitating transparency in the relationship between DISCOs and consumers. She commended the active participation of [Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission \(NERC\)](#), [Nigeria Electricity Management Services Agency \(NEMSA\)](#) and [Abuja Electricity Distribution Company \(AEDC\)](#). She said that the event had been helpful in resolving the crisis and restoring confidence between consumers and service providers.

The Managing Director of NEMSA, Mr Peter Ewesor, said it was also necessary for consumers to adhere to the process of using electricity by ensuring that proper installation of electrical appliances was done by certified engineers. He said that the violation of the rules governing electrical installations could result in danger to consumers. It was important for stakeholders to come together to address the challenges inherent in the sector.

The Director of Corporate Services, AEDC, Mr Abimbola Odubiyi, said AEDC was committed to resolving the complaints of consumers under its jurisdiction. Residents of Lugbe community raised questions on recurrent cases of estimated billing, lack of meters and overloading of transformers. They also raised the issue of double billings by AEDC, among other challenges faced by the consumers. Source: [THE NATION](#), December 03, 2016.

Publications/Regulations

- TEDA, District wise list of Empaneled Solar installers 7kwp / 10kwp. [Click here](#)
- TEDA, Tamil Nadu Solar Net-Metering, Consumer Guide. [Click here](#)

India Energy Crisis, [Smart Power for Rural Development](#)

