

ROOFTOP SOLAR CONUNDRUM (PART - 2)

Anticipating these problems in the expansion of the RE sector and to overcome them, the Act in 2003 imposed two important conditions - a) Section 86 (1) (e) of the Act mandates regulators to promote RE by forcing utilities to purchase "a percentage of the total consumption of electricity in the area of a distribution licensee" and b) State governments can frame policies under Section 108 and give directions to the electricity regulators to frame progressive regulations. Further, the National Tariff Policy and National Electricity Policy advocated for differential and preferential pricing mechanisms - bonus points for clean energy - i.e. higher rate of return.

Additionally, incentives and subsidies were given for setting up RE systems, whether grid connected solar/wind energy plants (commercial scale generation) or roof top solar system (decentralised and benefitting individual or small group of consumers). The main point to note is, given its drawbacks and technological immaturity at that time, it was left to the hands of private entrepreneurs to make use of the opportunity to set up RE. This led to a proliferation of central and state (solar and wind) policies together with regulatory pricing mechanisms to promote RE - mainly feed-in tariffs. (Feed-in tariffs are prices paid to RE producers for feeding power into the grid).

Simultaneously (and perhaps contradictorily in today's context), the Act mandated that state electricity boards, trifurcated into generation, transmission and distribution, must run on commercial principle with the ability to sustain its business through generation of power (sales), improve efficiency in operations, use resources economically and optimise investments (Section 61).

Utilities and regulators alike, despite various regulations for improving utility performance such as demand side management, have always seen revenue from sale of power as the main source of commercial viability for the utility. This traditional rate regulation is based on revenue projections, with the rest of the expenses accounted for.

This straightforward and simplistic model of financial management is seen through the lens of regulators dealing with publicly owned generation, transmission and distribution companies filing tariff petitions a year in advance to request for annual revenue requirement. (The tariff is the per unit price at which consumers pay for power). It also factored in for purchase from commercial scale private producers of RE through feed in tariff. Small scale and decentralised consumer generators were hardly considered as serious players.

But over the years, the prices of RE have fallen, especially solar, mainly due to the technological breakthroughs, to the extent it is able to compete with conventional sources of power. (However, problems of intermittency and variability still remain.)

Further, with the size of solar panels becoming small enough to be fitted on rooftops, consumers who were dependent on the utility for electricity are now self sufficient as they can generate power for their needs. Simultaneously, it was also realised that excess power can be exported to the grid for the utility to distribute to its consumers - an aspect that was viewed as positive when there was inadequate generation. (TO BE CONTINUED)

Electricity Contacts

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- Pay online: **TNEBNET**

Please send your feedback to ecc@cag.org.in

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Tamil Nadu News

Wind power tariff in Tamil Nadu drops to 3.42/unit, lowest in country

The cost of wind power in Tamil Nadu has fallen to 3.42 per unit, the lowest in the country. The price now is 4 paise lower than that quoted in the Union renewable power ministry's wind power tender bid. On Monday, when the wind power price bids were opened, Tangedco found ReGen Power Tech Company had bid for 3.42 per unit for a capacity of 200MW.

"Wind power companies had gone to court on the lower tariff. The case is pending and the letter of allocation will be given only after court disposes the case. At the same time, the court said the tender process can go on and this is why we opened the price bids," a senior Tangedco official said.

The other two companies which quoted more or less around 3.42 per unit are Leap Energy for 250MW and NLC for 500MW. "Besides Regen, two companies had bid for wind power for a total capacity of 900MW. But TNERC had allowed only 500MW this year. Tangedco is seeking permission from TNERC to allow 900MW this year as the price is low," said the official.

Monday's is the second lowest power price in Tamil Nadu and even lower is the wind power that is being purchased by Tangedco at 3 per unit. Tamil Nadu has a total of 7,500MW and 2017 has been the best year for wind power as the discom has been evacuating wind power daily since the season began in May. On July 10, Tangedco evacuated a record 5,079MW for nearly 2 hours from 7pm. 'We have better transmission facilities, including sub-stations, due to which wind power evacuation will be more in the coming years,' he said. Meanwhile, Tangedco is set to issue a letter of allocation for 16 solar power companies which won the bids at `3.47 per unit. 'Once we issue the letter, these companies can start purchasing land, also arranging finance for the project. The total capacity of solar power this year is 1500MW,' said the official

Source: [The Economic Times](#), August 29, 2017

India News

New norms for solar power bids to enhance transparency: MNRE

The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) today said its guidelines for tariff-based bidding for procuring solar power would reduce risk, enhance transparency and increase affordability. The MNRE had issued the new guidelines for tariff based competitive bidding process on August 3. The guidelines have been issued under the provisions of Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for long term procurement from grid—connected Solar PV Power Projects of 5 MW and above, through competitive bidding.

Besides, it said, the move will help protect consumer interests through affordable power. It will also provide standardisation and uniformity in processes and a risk—sharing framework between various stakeholders involved in the solar PV power procurement, it said. This will also help reduce off-taker risk and encourage investments, enhance bankability of the Projects and improve profitability for the investors, it added.

Some of the salient features of the new norms include generation compensation for offtake constraints for reducing off take risks.

The 'must-run' status for solar projects has been stressed upon. Besides, to ensure lower tariffs, minimum PPA (power purchase agreement) tenure has been kept at 25 years. Moreover unilateral termination or amendment of PPA is not allowed. The guidelines also streamline the provision for project preparedness to expedite and facilitate the setting up of projects. Further, they provides for termination compensation to increase bankability of projects by securing the investment by the generator and the lenders against any arbitrary termination of PPA.

Under the norms, the risk of generator's revenue getting blocked due to delayed payment/non—payment by the procurers has been addressed through provision of Payment Security Mechanism through instruments like Letter of Credit (LC), Payment Security Fund and State Guarantee. It also provides for change in law provision to provide clarity and certainty to generators, procurers, and investors/lenders. The penalties have been rationalised so as to reduce the overall cost to the generator, while at the same time, ensuring compliance with the Commissioning Schedule/Scheme Guidelines. The norms provide that generators are free to repower their plants.

Source: [The Hindu Business Line](#), August 26, 2017

Consumer Focus

FACTS

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 TANGEDCO 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. They also opined that an irrelevant claim was made by the respondent.

CONTESTATIONS

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.

OBSERVATIONS AND 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 day. Delay is held to unacceptable.

ECC Voice

மின் சக்தி சேமிப்பிற்கான விதிமுறைகள்

மின் சிக்கனம் கடைபிடித்து வீட்டிற்கும் நாட்டிற்கும் பயன் பெற உதவுவீர்

- சாதாரண 40 வாட்ஸ் குழல் விளக்குகளை மாற்றி விட்டு அதே போல் ஒளி வழங்கும் 20 வாட்ஸ் மெல்லிய குழல் (LED) விளக்குகளைப் பொருத்தவும். சாதாரண குண்டு பல்புகளுக்கு பதிலாக மெல்லிய குழல் (LED) பல்புகளை உபயோகிக்கவும்
- குழல் விளக்குகளில் சாதாரண சோக்குகளை மாற்றிவிட்டு எலக்ட்ரானிக் சோக்குகளை உபயோகிக்கவும்.
- வீடுகட்டும் போதே போதிய வெளிச்சமும் காற்றும் வீட்டிற்கு கிடைக்குமாறு வடிமைக்கவும். தேவையான போது மட்டுமே மின் விளக்குகளை உபயோகிக்கவும். சூரிய ஒளியை கிடைக்கும் போது உபயோகிக்கவும்
- செய்யும் வேலைக்குத் தகுந்த வெளிச்சம் மட்டுமே தரும் மின் விளக்குகளை உபயோகிக்கவும்
- மின் விசிறி பிளேடுகளை அவ்வப்போது சுத்தம் செய்யவும். மின் விசிறிகளில் எலக்ட்ரானிக் ரெகுலேட்டர்களை உபயோகிக்கவும். மின் விசிறிகளில் பேரிங்களுக்கு அவ்வப்போது எண்ணெய் விட வேண்டும். தேவையில்லாத போது மின்விசிறிகளை நிறுத்திவிடவும்
- தினமும் ஒன்றிரண்டு துணிகளை அயர்ன் செய்வதை தவிர்த்து மொத்தமாக துணிகளை அயர்ன் செய்யவும். எ
- கிரைண்டர்களில் நைலான் பெல்டுகளையே எப்போதும் உபயோகிக்கவும். கிரைண்டர்களை எப்பொழுதும் அதன் முழு திறனுக்கே உபயோகிக்கவும்
- மின் திறன் (Star Rated) மிக்க மோட்டர்களையே கிரைண்டர்களில் பயன்படுத்தவும். மின்சக்தி (Energy Saver) சேமிப்பான்களை குளிர்சாதன கருவிகளில் (AC) உபயோகிக்கவும். மின்திறன் (Star Rated) மிக்க பம்புகளையே நீரேற்றத்திற்கு உபயோகிக்கவும். குறைந்த எடையுள்ள மின் திறன் (Star Rated) மிக்க மின் விசிறிகளை உபயோகிக்கவும்.
- நீரில் மூழ்கும் ஹீட்டர்களை உபயோகிக்கும் பொழுது நீர் தேவையான அளவு சூடானவுடன் மின்சாரத்தை நிறுத்தி விடவும். நீரை சூடாக்கும் போது பாத்திரத்தை மூடி வைக்கவும்.
- மின் தூக்கிகளில் (Lift) மின்சக்தி சேமிப்பிற்கான நவீன உத்திகளை கையாளவும்.

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Initiative of



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.

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World News

EESL to sign MoU with Malaysian counterpart to replicate UJALA scheme in Malaysia

Following the successful implementation of the Indian government's Unnat Jeevan by Affordable LEDs and Appliances for All (UJALA) in UK, the Malaysian government has now evinced interest in replicating the scheme in Malaysia.

The state of Melaka in Malaysia is set to partner with EESL with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Green Growth Asia (GGA) and EESL in the first week of September 2017 on the sidelines of the Urban Environmental Accords (UEA) at the Melaka Summit.

"We were deeply encouraged by India's UJALA story, which is being implemented by EESL. As the world's largest zero-subsidy government LED distribution programme, this is an extraordinary example of successful energy efficiency programmes that we believe should be replicated in Melaka," Chief Minister of Melaka, Malaysia, Datuk Seri Utama Ir. Haji Idris bin Haron, said in a statement released by EESL on Friday.

Being the Chairman of the Green Growth Asia Advisory Committee, he also is keen on collaborating with EESL in other programmes in addition to the UJALA scheme, the statement added.

The UJALA scheme implemented by EESL has now become a global case study, whereby we have been approached by the governments of many countries to seek assistance for implementation of similar interventions in the energy efficiency space, with the Government of Melaka being the latest addition. In line with this, we have already commenced talks with the Green Growth Asia Advisory Committee soon to assess their requirements." Raj Kumar Rakhra, National Programme Manager (UJALA), EESL, said. Currently, over 255 million LED bulbs, over 3.6 million LED tube-lights and around 1.15 million energy efficient fans have been distributed in the country under the UJALA scheme, according to the ministry of power.

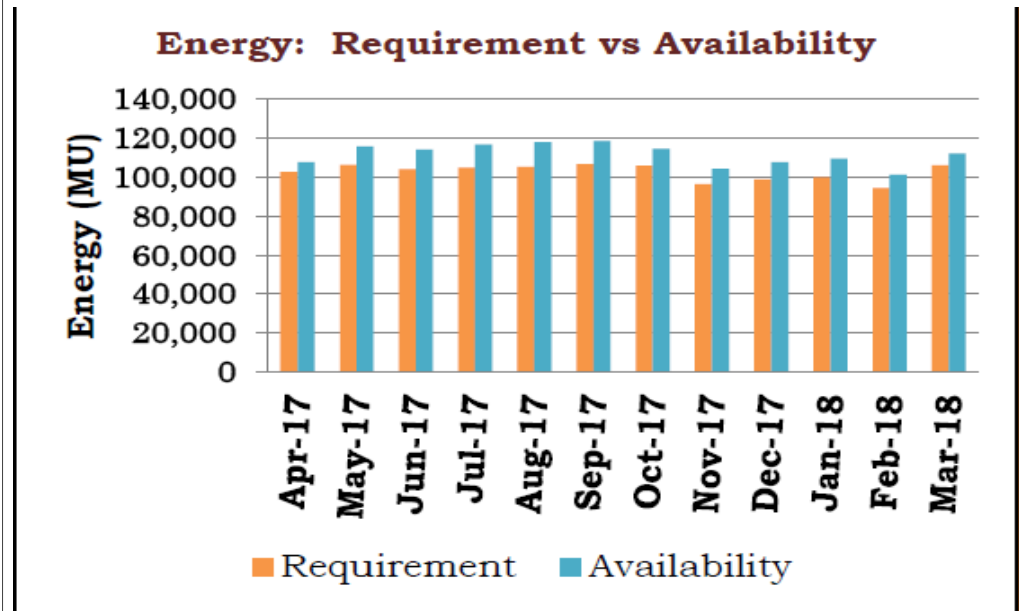
The scheme has resulted in annual energy savings of over 33,400 million units of power and avoided peak demand of 6,725 MW. According to EESL, the scheme is estimated to lead to cumulative cost reduction in bills of consumers of over Rs 13,346 crore annually apart from reduction of around 27 million tonne of carbon emissions every year.

Source: [The Economic Times](#), August 18, 2017

Publications/Regulations

- Ministry of Power, "National Electricity Policy- A Review" August 2017, [Click here](#)
- Climate Council, "Renewables Ready: State leading the Charge", August 2017, [Click here](#)

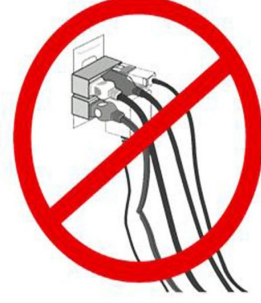
Load Generation Balance Report- Anticipated power supply position, 2017-18



மின்சார திருட்டு



மின்சார சட்டம் 2003 - பிரிவு 135



மின்சார திருட்டு

மின்சார திருட்டு என்றால் என்ன ?

மின்சாரம் திருடப்படும் சூழ்நிலைகள்
இழப்பு மின்அளவி ஆய்வுக்கருவிகள் / உபகரணங்கள் / கம்பி - சேதத்திற்கு
காரணியாக இருத்தல்

இது எப்படி நடக்கிறது ?

நேர்மையற்ற முறையில் டப்பிங்க்:	அ. தலைக்குமேல் உயரத்தில் ஆ. அடிநிலத்தில்
மின் அளவிட்டுக் கருவியினை முறைகேடாக மாற்றுவதல்	I. முறைகேடாக மாற்றப்பட்ட மின்அளவியை பயன்படுத்துதல் II. கரண்ட் ரிவர்சிங் டிரான்ஸ்பார்மர் (மின் மாற்றி) III. லூப் இணைப்பு கொடுத்தல் IV. துல்லியமான / சரியான பதிவுகளில் மற்ற கருவிகள் தலயிடுவது
தண்டனை	1. திருட்டை அறியும் பட்சத்தில் உடனடியாக இணைப்பானது துண்டிக்கப்படும். 2. மூன்று வருடம் சிறை தண்டனையோ அல்லது அபராதமோ அல்லது இரண்டுமோ விதிக்கப்படலாம். 3. நுகர்வோரானாவர் அபராதத்தினைக் கட்டும்பட்சத்தில் 48 மணி நேரத்தில் இணைப்பானது திருப்பிக்கொடுக்கப்படும்
எடுத்துக்காட்டு	பொது நிகழ்ச்சியின் வரையறையற்ற ஒளி விளக்குகளுக்காக எந்தவித அனுமதியுமின்றி தற்காலிகமாகக் கொடுக்கப்படும் மின் இணைப்பு மின்சார திருட்டு ஆகும்



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மின்சார திருட்டினைப் பற்றி தகவல் அளிப்பவரின் அடையாளம் ரகசியமாக வைக்கப்படும். அவருக்கு வெகுமதியும் வழங்கப்படும்

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