Volume VII, Issue 10

Current News
மின் செய்திகள்

October, 2022

Energy Conservation Act (Part-3)

The previous issue explained ECBC and UJALA schemes. This editorial will discuss some more schemes passed under this Act:

4. Demand Side Management (DSM)

Provisions:

Section 13(2)(k) of the Act empowers the Bureau of Energy Efficiency to promote use of energy efficient processes, equipment, devices and systems.

Operational:

DSM is an interventional mechanism under which the overall demand for electricity is reduced without hindering development. Some of the important DSM schemes implemented by BEE are:

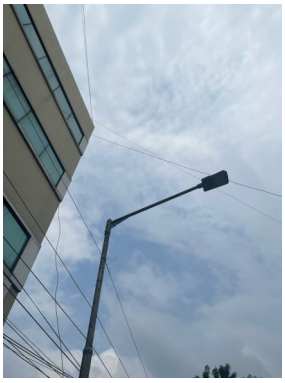
a. Agricultural DSM

The scheme aims to reduce the electricity demand from the agricultural sector, through the introduction of BEE star-rated and high efficiency pumps.

Under this scheme, old inefficient pumpsets are replaced (free of cost to farmers) with energy efficient star rated pumpsets.

b. Municipal DSM

It is a scheme directed towards improving energy efficiency in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), by promoting energy efficient street lighting, water pumping etc. This is done by conducting energy audits, preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and implementing Energy Efficiency measures through Energy Service Companies (ESCOs). This scheme is credited with replacing conventional street lights with LEDs in various locations throughout the nation.



An LED street light, Chennai

5. Indo- Swiss Building Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP):

Provisions:

Section 13(2)(t) of the Act empowers Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to implement international co-operation programmes relating to efficient use of energy and its conservation as may be assigned to it by the Central Government.

Operational:

This is an international cooperative project between the Ministry of Power, Government of India, and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) of the Swiss Confederation. The primary objective is to increase awareness on Energy-Efficient and Thermally Comfortable (EETC) Building Designs and make them the preferred way of constructing in the nation. BEEP's website doubles as an interactive hub for building design professionals and students to access resources, tools, news, and updates enabling them to build energy efficient and thermally comfortable buildings. BEEP has launched flagship projects that we will discuss along with various other vital schemes in the next newsletter.

(To be continued)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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

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Understanding the different charges borne by an electricity consumer (Part 2)

The previous issue explained the basics of charges being paid by consumers such as tariff charges and fixed charges. This issue will explain those other charges that a consumer might have to pay, under special circumstances. In addition to tariff related charges, a distribution licensee i.e. Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) is entitled to collect miscellaneous charges (non-tariff) which are essential for an electricity connection, under Section 45 & 46 of Electricity Act 2003. These charges are determined by Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) under Miscellaneous Orders which TANGEDCO is required to adhere to. The latest miscellaneous order came into effect on September 09, 2022.

Let's see some of the miscellaneous charges which are collected from domestic consumers under ***"Chapter 4 - Charges recoverable by the Licensee, Regulation 5*** *of Tamil Nadu Electricity Supply Code 2004":*

1.**Name Transfer charge:**
Any domestic consumer who wants to change the name of the account holder for reasons such as death of the service connection holder, transfer of property etc., has to submit the required documents to TANGEDCO together with a fee of Rs.600.

2. **Consumer Meter Card Replacement Charge:**
The consumer meter card (white meter card) is issued for free at the time of effecting a new connection. The white meter card is used to record measurements relating to consumption of electricity, the charges for electricity consumed and due dates for payment. If the white meter card is lost or damaged, TANGEDCO shall collect Rs.5/- as the replacement charges for a new card. If the white meter card is used up fully, then TANGEDCO should replace it for **free**.

3. **Reconnection charge:**
If a consumer fails to pay consumption charges within the due date, the electricity service can be disconnected. To reinstate services TANGEDCO collects charges (known as reconnection charges) towards manpower and time involved in restoring the service. The reconnection charges for the domestic service connections are:

Service cut-out	Rs.120
Overhead service	Rs.300
Underground service	Rs.500

The service connection will be effected after paying current consumption charges and reconnection charges.

4. **Belated payment surcharge:**
Once the electricity bill is generated, the consumer has to pay charges within 15 days from the date of meter reading. Any consumer who has not paid the consumption charges before the due date will have to pay the belated payment surcharges (BPSC), calculated at 1.5% of the current consumption charges for a month.

Current Consumption charge	Rs.200
Belated Payment Surcharge Calculation - {(200*1.5%)*2}	Rs.6
Total amount to be paid	Rs.206/-

Hence, the consumer should pay a surcharge of Rs.206/-.

5. Dishonoured cheque service charge:
Consumers have the option of paying electricity bills either in cash or cheque or online. When a cheque issued by a consumer for electricity bill payment is not cashed into TANGEDCO's account, it will be treated as a dishonoured cheque. TANGEDCO can then collect a service charge to compensate for the expenses incurred in processing the financial transactions. The consumer now has to pay consumption charges through cash/money order/demand draft along with the service charge of Rs.250/- for domestic consumers. If the cheque is dishonoured after the due date, then the belated payment surcharge will also be applicable. For example,

Current Consumption charge	Rs.2000
Belated Payment Surcharge	Rs.60
Dishonoured Cheque Service Charges	Rs.250
Total amount to be paid	Rs.2310/-

Hence, the consumer should pay Rs.2310/- as the electricity bill amount. We will discuss some other charges In the upcoming editorials

(Continued)

Tamil Nadu News

Aadhaar link must for power subsidy in Tamil Nadu

In a major move aimed at streamlining electricity subsidies, the Tamil Nadu government released an order stating that those receiving subsidies must link their consumer numbers with their Aadhaar card. The order came into effect on October 6.

The order will effectively apply to all domestic consumers as currently all of them get 100 free units of power. Those availing of free power for huts and agriculture as well as places of public worship, power loom and handloom sectors that receive subsidies on power will also have to link their Aadhaar with their power consumer numbers.

No Aadhaar? TANGEDCO recommends you get one:

According to the order, if the consumers do not have an Aadhaar, Tangedco may recommend they get enrolled. Till an Aadhaar is assigned, the consumer may provide other identification documents such as Aadhaar Enrolment Identity Slip or copy of request made for Aadhaar Enrolment and bank passbook, voter ID, ration card, PAN card, passport, driving license, and so on.

Pathway to Direct Benefit Transfer?

Sources said under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, the Union government has instructed all state governments to provide subsidies directly to consumers' bank accounts. Moreover, the Centre has strictly said compliance to this instruction is mandatory to get funds on time. So far, no State government has complied.

SOURCE: The New Indian Express, October 14

India News

Gujarat's Modhera is India's first fully-solar village

Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared Modhera in Gujarat as India's first 24x7 solar-powered village.

Regarding Modhera, which also has a famous Sun Temple, Modi said, whenever people discuss solar energy in the world, this village will feature in it. "Government produces electricity and people purchase it. But we want people to be producers of power. Don't pay for electricity; sell it and earn from it instead," he urged.

"People of Modhera are both consumers and producers of electricity. The government is purchasing additional generated power. Such successful attempts must be replicated across the country," he added.

The solarisation of the Modhera Sun Temple and town happened through partnership between the Central and state governments. It involved integrating the village with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Sujjanpura in Mehsana, about 6 km away from the Sun Temple.

More than 1,300 rooftop solar systems have been installed on houses for power generation. While day time power comes from the solar panels, at night it is supplied from the BESS. Modhera also happens to be the first modern village having a solar based modern electric vehicle charging station.

SOURCE: The New Indian Express, October 10 2022.

Consumer Focus

- The appellant submitted that he is the owner of the property in question and the one paying property tax. Electricity service connection was released to the said house in the name of another resident in the house without his knowledge. In spite of making complaints to the respondents requesting disconnection and dismantling the said service connection, no action was taken by them. The appellant filed a case at the Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum (CGRF) at Telangana to disconnect and dismantle the service connection. CGRF rejected the complaint on the ground that it has no jurisdiction to entertain the complaint, since it falls under civil disputes. Aggrieved by this order, the appellant approached the Ombudsman.
- The appellant has argued that he is the owner of the plot where the present service connection exists; that the other resident has no right over the said property and therefore it has to be disconnected. The respondent (utility) stated that there was a dispute between the appellant and the resident. The service connection involved in this case was released in the name of the resident and therefore unless the resident applies for disconnection and dismantling, no action can be taken on the application of appellant.
- The Ombudsman explained who can be a complainant in the case, to analyse if the appellant can file the present case. With respect to clause 1.5(c) of Regulation 3 (Establishment of Mechanism for Redressal of Grievances of the Consumers) 2015, Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission, a complainant is a person who has a grievance and includes the following:
    1. A consumer as defined under the Electricity Act, 2003
    2. A person applying for a new connection
    3. Any registered consumer association under any law
    4. Any unregistered association or a group of consumers, where the consumers have a common of similar interests
    5. Legal heir(s) or representative(s) of a deceased consumer
    6. Any person who is a tenant or a lesse of a premises, or any person who is in occupation of any premises, where the Service Connection is in the name of owner of the premises and the electricity supplied by the licensee through that Service Connection is consumed by the tenant, lessee or person in occupation, as the case may be.
- In order to be considered as a "consumer" under Sec.2(15) of the Electricity Act, 2003 the appellant has to use the electricity for his own needs through the service connection involved in this case - which he is not. Neither has the appellant produced any document to show that the premises involved in this case, prima-facie, belongs to him, for the purpose of receiving electricity. In view of these factors, the appellant doesn't fit in the definition of the consumer as described in Sec.2(15) of the Act. The appellant has not made any application for a new service connection. He is not a registered consumer association nor does he belong to a group of consumers who have common interest. Furthermore, the appellant has not claimed to be a legal heir or a tenant/lessee. Thus, the appellant does not fit in any of the conditions mentioned in Clause 1.5(c) of the Regulation.

Considering the facts of the case, arguments put forth, cases cited, and the statutes relied upon, the Ombudsman passed the following order:

- Appellant cannot be a complainant
- Even if the appellant is a complainant or a consumer, under Clause 2.37(b) there is no prima-facie, loss or damage or inconvenience caused or to be caused to the appellant.
- The appeal is rejected without costs

Note: Regulation 3 (Establishment of Mechanism for Redressal of Grievances of the Consumers) 2015 is similar to the Regulations for Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum and Electricity Ombudsman, 2004 passed by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC)

Source: **Ombudsman Case**, Vidyut Ombudsman, Telangana State

ECC VOICE

கடலூர் மாவட்டம், பாளையங்கோட்டையை சேர்ந்த திரு.R. பிரபாகரன், அவரது விவசாய மின்இணைப்பினை அருகில் உள்ள தன்னுடைய வேறு இடத்திற்கு இடமாற்றம் செய்வதற்காக உதவி பொறியாளர் / பாளையங்கோட்டை அலுவலகத்தில் விண்ணப்பம் அளித்திருந்தார். இரண்டு மாதம் ஆகியும் அவரது விண்ணப்பத்தின் மீது உரிய நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்படவில்லை.

திரு. பிரபாகரன் அவர்கள் செய்திதாளின் மூலம் ECC கடலூர் மின்சேவை மையத்தினை பற்றி அறிந்து, மின் ஆலோசகர் அவர்களை 03. 09.2022அன்று தொலைபேசியில் தொடர்பு கொண்டு தனது புகாரினை தெரிவித்தார்.

மின் ஆலோசகர், உதவி பொறியாளர் / பாளையங்கோட்டை பிரிவு அதிகாரியை தொடர்பு கொண்டு மேற்கண்ட விவசாய மின் இணைப்பினை இடமாற்றம் செய்து வழங்க நடவடிக்கை மேற்கொள்ளுமாறு கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்.

பாளையங்கோட்டை பிரிவு அதிகாரி, விண்ணப்பதாரரின் விவசாய இடமாற்றம் மின்இணைப்பின்மீதான மதீப்பீடு உயர் அதிகாரிகளின் அனுமதியுடன் பண்டகசாலையில் தளவாடபொருட்கள் பெற்று விஸ்தரிப்பு பணிக்கான மூன்று மின் கம்பங்கள் அமைத்து, விவசாய மின் இணைப்பினை வழங்கி 15.09.2022அன்று திரு. பிரபாகரன் அவர்களுக்கு விவசாய மின் இணைப்பு இடமாற்றத்தினை செய்து கொடுத்தார்.

திரு. பிரபாகரன் விவசாய இடமாற்றம் மின் இணைப்பினை பெற்றுதந்ததற்காக ECC கடலூர் மின்சேவை மையத்திற்கு தனது நன்றியினை தெரிவித்தார்.

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Initiative of

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Citizen consumer and civic Action Group

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

Climate change puts energy security at risk - WMO

The supply of electricity from clean energy sources must double within the next eight years to limit global temperature increase. Otherwise, there is a risk that climate change, more extreme weather and water stress will undermine our energy security and even jeopardize renewable energy supplies, according to a new multi-agency report from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

WMO's State of Climate Services annual report , which includes inputs from 26 different organizations, focuses on energy this year because it holds the key to international agreements on sustainable development and climate change and, indeed, to the planet's health.

"The energy sector is the source of around three-quarters of global greenhouse gas emissions. Switching to clean forms of energy generation, such as solar, wind and hydropower – and improving energy efficiency – is vital if we are to thrive in the twenty-first century. Net zero by 2050 is the aim. But we will only get there if we double the supply of low-emissions electricity within the next eight years," said WMO Secretary-General Prof Petteri Taalas.

"Time is not on our side, and our climate is changing before our eyes. We need a complete transformation of the global energy system," says Prof. Taalas.

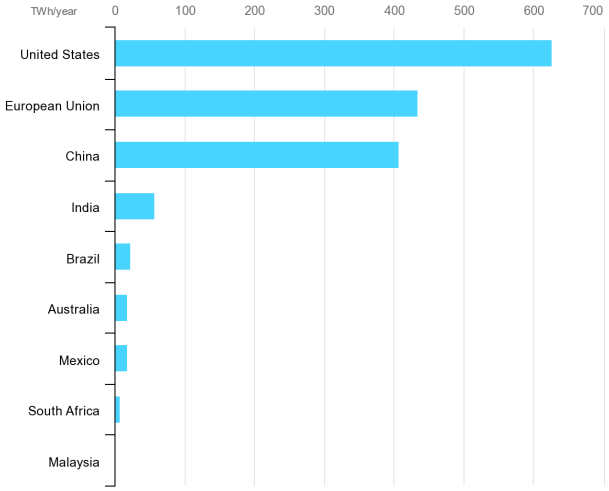
The 2022 State of Climate Services: Energy report has plenty of good news. It highlights the huge opportunities for green powered grids to help tackle climate change, improve air quality, conserve water resources, protect the environment, create jobs and safeguard a better future for us all.

SOURCE: World Meteorological Organization,

Publications / Regulations

- Electrification with Renewables: Enhancing Healthcare Delivery in Burkina Faso, October 2022, IRENA
- Indonesia Energy Transition Outlook, October 2022, IRENA
- Global Energy and Climate Model, October 2022, IEA
- World Energy Outlook 2022, October 2022, IEA

Annual avoided electricity consumption from standards and labelling programmes



Source: IEA, October 2022