

Energy Conservation Act (Part-6)

The various schemes and programmes for energy conservation and efficiency in the nation are implemented under the [Energy Conservation Act, 2001](#) (recently [amended](#) in 2022). In this series we have been discussing the schemes passed under this Act and the various ways in which these benefit the electricity consumer. In the [previous issue](#) we examined some of the schemes launched by [Energy Efficiency Services Limited \(EESL\)](#).

This editorial will discuss some of the schemes implemented by EESL:

C. National Motor Replacement Program (NMRP) : This program aims to provide commercial consumers with High Efficient Motors (HEM) that adhere to International Efficiency-3 (IE-3) standards, set by the [International Electrotechnical Commission](#) (IEC). Despite being some of the most energy-efficient electric motors in the world ([International Efficiency standards](#)), most small enterprise owners are not able to switch to IE-3 standard motors due to their high cost. NMRP makes the switch possible by offering the [following](#):

- Investments for procuring the motors are made upfront: EESL takes care of the entire upfront cost in buying an IE-3 motor.
- Creating awareness: A large number of awareness programmes are conducted on technical as well as commercial aspects involved in switching to IE-3 motors.
- Conducting capacity building for manufacturers; EESL has developed the post-sales service framework, by offering consumers access to qualified technicians to handle the IE3 motors.
- Utilising success cases that will convince decision makers: Sometimes there can be resistance to change and an unwillingness to accept new technology. One of the most effective tools to address this is to showcase other business owners who have benefitted from this scheme.

The scheme gives two financial models for users to choose from:

- Project Management Consultancy (PMC) model:** Investment, (ie. the cost of the motor), is borne by the consumer; PMC service is provided by the EESL. This includes procurement of meters, supply of the motor to the users and imposing a warranty obligation.
- Shared Saving Model :** In this model the investment cost along with PMC is taken up by EESL. After installation, the consumer can pay back through equated quarterly instalments (EQIs) within the next three years. It is important to note that the repayment is only around 50-70% of the monetary savings gained by the replacement of the motor.

D. Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY): This program was [launched in September, 2016](#). Under this scheme, solar street lamps are fixed in places without sufficient electricity supply. These lighting systems are installed in public places like roads and bus stops to provide safety for people. This scheme is implemented in urban, semi-urban and rural areas to benefit all citizens. So far, [more than 1.97 lakh Solar LED street lights have been installed](#).

(Concluded)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Editorial</i>	1,2
<i>Tamil Nadu News</i>	3
<i>India News</i>	3
<i>Consumer Focus</i>	4
<i>World News</i>	5
<i>Publications</i>	5
<i>Statistics</i>	5

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

Electricity Consumer Cells (ECCs)

ECC Tiruvallur

No. 118, Fourth Street, Kamaraj Nagar, Avadi, Tiruvallur District. Chennai - 600 071, Phone: 9382828286 Email: ecctiruvallur@gmail.com

ECC Tirunelveli

No.17/1, Shenbagavana Street, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli - 627 006 Phone: 9443555097 Email: ecctirunelveli@gmail.com

ECC Cuddalore

No.23, Saraswathi Nagar, Thirupapuliur Cuddalore - 607 002 Phone: 8608615621 Email: ecccuddalore@gmail.com

ECC Tiruvannamalai

Avalurpet Road, Tiruvannamalai - 606 604 Phone: 04175 - 298033 Email: ecctiruvannamalai@gmail.com

ECC Salem

31/20, Sree Rangan Street, Gugai, Salem - 636 006 Phone: 9994941050 Email: eccsalem1@gmail.com

ECC Vellore

No: 10, Pillayar Koil Street GribblesPet Arakkonam Vellore District - 631 002 Mobile : +91 98946 32302 Email id: eccvellore@gmail.com

ECC Trichy

No: 4/74, Sangililyandapuram Pettavaithalai & Post Tiruchirappalli District - 639 112 Landline : 0431-2612597 Mobile : +91 9788203997 Email id : ecctiruchirappalli@gmail.com

Understanding the different charges borne by an electricity consumer (Part 5)

The [previous issue](#) explained meter related charges borne by consumers for an electricity service connection. This edition will explain other charges with respect to their electricity service connection.

7) **Charges for name transfer of service:** The name transfer for an existing domestic service connection can be done under below circumstances:

1. If a consumer buys a new house/land
2. If a consumer's land has been partitioned with one or more persons
3. If a consumer has received a house/land from a settlement deed or gift
4. If the account holder has deceased

Regulation 5 (7) of the [Tamil Nadu Electricity Supply Code 2004](#), states that the consumer has to submit an [online](#) application with the required [documents](#) for the name transfer of service connection. Under the recent [Miscellaneous Charges Order](#), TANGEDCO will collect Rs.600/- as the name transfer charges from low tension consumers.

8) Shifting of service connection/line/ structure /equipments:

As a domestic consumer, the shifting of service connections can happen for following reasons:

- a. Safety purposes :
 - Shifting of overhead service wires passing over the land/plot
 - Shifting of poles or transformers installed in the vacant place, which is near to the consumer premises. (Reference - [Ombudsman order](#))
- b. Alteration or re-construction of house - shifting of service connection within the same premises.
- c. Shifting of damaged pole, pillar boxes

Procedure :

The consumer will have to submit an application to the Assistant Engineer (AE) with the local section office. Based on the application, the Assistant Engineer will inspect the site to prepare an estimate of the cost. The estimated cost will be approved by the Executive Engineer (EE), who has the [power to sanction](#) materials required for the work. As per Regulation 5(6) of [Tamil Nadu Electricity Supply Code, 2004](#), "Electricity Charges - Billing and Recovery, Miscellaneous charges" the cost of shifting service / line, structure and equipment shall be borne by the consumer. Accordingly, a copy of the estimated cost will be given to the consumer and the work will be executed on receiving the full payment.

Who should do this work:

On successful payment, TANGEDCO will authorise their technical team to execute the work. No one except TANGEDCO employees are authorised to work on licensee's electrical equipment. On inspection, if unauthorised activities e.g. tampering with wires etc have been carried out by the consumer, it will be treated as "[power theft](#)". As per Section 35 of the [Electricity Act 2003](#), the consumer has to pay three times the financial gain to the utility as penalty.



Tamil Nadu News

TN energy agency to make govt buildings solar-powered

As part of “Zero Carbon Initiative,” the Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) is set to install grid-connected rooftop solar panels with a combined capacity of 20 MW on government buildings, educational institutions, and state-run industrial facilities. The project, to be developed on capital expenditure model, will cost Rs 120 crore, and the successful bidder will have to operate and maintain the projects for five years. A senior Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency officer told this newspaper already a tender has been floated for the project. Eligible bidders can apply until February 15, and bids will be opened on the same day.

He also pointed out the officials have already approached a few district administrations to adopt solar power. Once the bidding process is over, they will begin the task and complete it as early as possible. After the installation, rooftop solar systems will be connected to the grid under a net-metering agreement. The excess energy produced by the consumer will be credited by the power utility in the billing. Another official said, “Making government buildings solar-powered is the priority, and the goal is installing 9,000 MW —utility category of 5,400 MW and consumer category of 3,600 MW - solar panels across Tamil Nadu.”

Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency has already facilitated the installation of solar power plants in government buildings, including universities, zonal transport buildings, the Tamil Nadu Warehouse Corporation, and government schools in various parts of the state under the CAPEX model with a combined capacity of 1,916 KW. The official also said lack of funds has delayed the solar projects.

“Actually, the target of 9,000 MW should be achieved by March this year, but we will miss the target as many projects are yet to start,” he added. However, Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency has already conveyed the message to the state government.

Source: [The New Indian Express](#), January 8, 2023.

India News

Remote south Kashmir village lights up for the first time in 75 years

It is a moment of joy for the residents of the remote-and-hilly village of Dooru in south Kashmir’s Anantnag district as the electricity has reached the village for the first time since independence. Tethan village, which is about 90 km away from Srinagar, comprises about 35-40 families, mostly Gujjars and Bakerwals. The villagers are delighted to have electricity for the first time in their village. A local resident Mushtaq Ahmad said, “Now our homes are lit with electric bulbs. We were facing grave problems due to the non-availability of electricity. We were using wood to cook meals and candles and lamps to lighten our homes,” he said.

Mushtaq further said they also faced problems in mobile charging during the winter as the village witnessed heavy snowfall. “We had to travel a few kilometres on snow-laden roads to charge our mobiles to remain in touch with our dear ones.” The village has been electrified under the Pradhan Mantri developmental programme “Har Ghar Bijli Yojana”. The programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019. A 63 KV transformer, 38 HT poles and 57 LT Poles have been installed in the Tethan village for electrification of the entire village. Fayaz Ahmad Sofi, technical officer PDD Anantnag, said the process of networking in the village was started in 2022.

“We faced a big issue of tapping of the high-tension line. All the officials and men worked really hard,” he said. Mohammad Iqbal, assistant executive engineer PDD Dooru, said that it was a very tough job to electrify Tethan hamlet as it is a hilly village. A pole had to be dragged by five to six labourers from the main road to the village and installation of the pole was also a very tough job, he said. “However, the hard work has paid off and the village has been electrified,” added Iqbal. Another local, Fazal Din Ahmed said, “Now our children will study under light and perform well.”

Source: [The New Indian Express](#), January 10, 2023.

Consumer Focus

The appellant's service connection was disconnected on 11.04.2018 due to non-payment of current consumption (CC) charges for the month of 10/2017. The appellant failed to make the payment even after disconnection. The connection was permanently dismantled on 04.08.2021. It was observed by the respondent (the utility) that the meter reading was higher (by 3828 units) when it was dismantled than it was during disconnection on 11.04.2018. The respondent charged the consumer arrears amounting to Rs. 68,661, with CC arrears alone amounting to Rs.25,300. Additional levies and fees made up the rest of the amount, as shown below:

CC arrear upto 4.8.2021	Rs.	25,300.00
BPSC	Rs	17,862.00
Extra Levy	Rs	25,265.00
Compounding Charges	Rs	1,000.00
Monthly Minimum	Rs	120.00
DC Fees	Rs	150.00
Dismantling Charges	Rs	500.00
	Rs	70,197.00
Less CCD + MCD	Rs	1,536.00
Balance	Rs	68,661.00

The consumer wanted a reduction in these charges and filed a complaint seeking the same, at the Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum (CGRF).

Following the observation that current consumption had continued even after disconnection, the meter was sent for Meter Relay Testing (MRT) by the CGRF. The meter was found to be in good working order. The readings following the disconnection could therefore not be attributed to a faulty meter. Following the test, the CGRF passed an order on 30.03.2022 stating that the amount charged was correct. The appellant subsequently approached the Ombudsman with the same request to reduce charges. The appellant argued that the meter was disconnected when he was not in the premises. He also stated that the service connection was actually used by a tenant. The tenant had failed to pay rent regularly and vacated from the premises without informing the appellant. In light of this, the appellant again requested a reduction in the penalty imposed.

The respondent argued that the MRT report proved that the appellant had consumed power after disconnection. The respondent justified that the penalty was calculated as per Clause 23(AA) [Tamil Nadu Electricity Supply Code](#); procedure for assessment of electricity charges in case of theft of electricity.

The Ombudsman observed that the disputed service was disconnected and booked under [Section 135 of Electricity Act, 2003](#), after which the appellant illegally restored it. According to [Regulation 5 of Regulations for CGRF and Electricity Ombudsman, 2004](#) unauthorised use of electricity as detailed under [Sections 126 and 135 to 141 of the Electricity Act, 2003](#) are excluded from the purview of the Ombudsman. Considering the facts of the case, arguments put forth and the statutes relied upon, the Ombudsman passed the following order:

- The Ombudsman is not allowed to take up the grievance of the appellant
- The petition is dismissed with no costs.

Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG)

No. 103(First Floor), Eldams Road, Chennai 600 018
INDIA

Phone: 91-44-2435 4458,
91-44-2435 0387
Email: ecc@cag.org.in

www.cag.org.in

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.

Editorial Team

K. Vishnu Mohan Rao

Bharath Ram G N

Akshaya S

Vanathi B

Prabhuram S

World News

Nearly one billion served by healthcare facilities without reliable electricity: Report

Close to 1 billion people in low and lower-middle-income countries are served by healthcare facilities with unreliable electricity supply or with no electricity access at all, according to a new report from the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll). Access to electricity is critical for quality healthcare provision, from delivering babies to managing emergencies like heart attacks, or offering lifesaving immunization. Without reliable electricity in all healthcare facilities, Universal Health Coverage cannot be reached, the report notes, according to a WHO press statement. The joint report, *Energizing Health: Accelerating Electricity Access in Health-Care Facilities*, presents the latest data on electrification of healthcare facilities in low- and middle-income countries. It also projects investments required to achieve adequate and reliable electrification in health-care and identify key priority actions for governments and development partners.

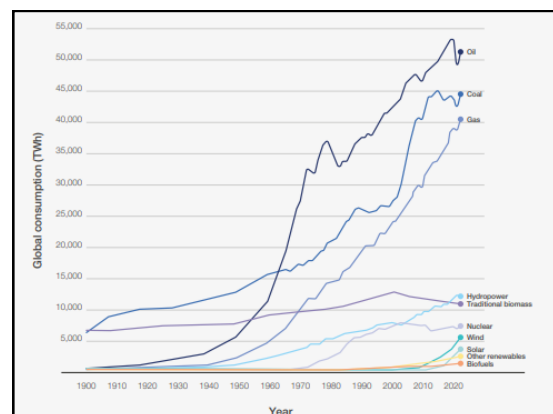
According to the report, disparities in electricity access within countries are also stark. Primary healthcare centres and rural health facilities are considerably less likely to have electricity access than hospitals and facilities in urban areas. According to the report, disparities in electricity access within countries are also stark. Primary healthcare centres and rural health facilities are considerably less likely to have electricity access than hospitals and facilities in urban areas. Electricity access is a major enabler of Universal Health Coverage, the report states, and so electrification of healthcare facilities must be considered an utmost development priority requiring greater support and investments from governments, development partners and financing and development organizations.

Source: [ThePrint](https://theprint.in), January 15, 2023.

Publications / Regulations

- Energy Technology Perspectives 2023, January 2023, [IEA](https://www.iea.org)
- Renewable Energy Roadmap: Nigeria, January 2023, [IRENA](https://www.irena.org)
- Planning and prospects for renewable power: North Africa, January 2023, [IRENA](https://www.irena.org)
- Securing the Energy Transition, January 2023, [WEF](https://www.wef.org)

Global primary energy consumption by source (1900-2021), showcasing ongoing dependence on fossil fuels



Source: [WEF](https://www.wef.org)