

Minutes of the 23rd Meeting of the State Advisory Committee held at Centrum Hall, 1st Floor, World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade on 28th September, 2012 at 11.00 hours.

The twenty-third meeting of the State Advisory Committee (SAC) constituted by the Commission under Section 87 of the Electricity Act, 2003 was held on Friday, 28th September, 2012 in Mumbai. The Chairman Shri V.P. Raja presided over the meeting. The meeting commenced with a warm welcome by the Chairman. Leave of absence was granted to those who could not attend the meeting. List of Members/Special Invitees who attended the meeting is enclosed.

Agenda Item No. 1: Preliminary Remarks by the Chairman.

After welcoming the SAC Members, Special Invitees and others, the Chairman brought to the notice of the Committee, recent developments in power sector particularly related to Coal Block allocations and the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment on allocation of natural resources. Further, importance of lessons to be learnt from the Northern Region blackout on 30th and 31st July 2012 was underlined by the Chairman.

Agenda Item No 2: Lesson to be learnt from the Grid Failure that occurred in Northern Region on 30th July 2012 and Northern, Eastern & North Eastern Region on 31st July 2012 & Presentation on Mumbai Islanding System.

Shri G.S. Rao made a presentation on “Grid failure-Northern Region on 30th July 2012 and Northern, Eastern & Northern-Eastern Region of India on 31st July 2012”. A copy of presentation is attached.

Shri. Zalte, Director (Operation), MSETCL, informed the Committee that, Shri. Ajoy Mehta, Chairman, Western Region Power Committee (WRPC) had called the meeting on 7th August 2012 for discussion on reason of Northern Region Grid failure on 30th July & 31st July 2012, probable causes of the grid disturbances in Northern Region and how to handle the contingency, if it happens in Western Region. The comprehensive report “on how to handle the situation and protect the system in order to control the frequency etc”, has been submitted to National Load Dispatch Centre (NLDC).

Shri. Zalte mentioned that the line was tripped on that day (which led to blackout in Northern Region) because the power flow increased from 750 MW to 1400 MW due to inadequate reactive power compensation. He urged the Commission to take the reactive power management issue with the National Forum. He informed the Committee that the Recommendations of Enquiry Committee have been taken seriously and proactively by the Maharashtra State Transmission Co. Ltd (MSETCL).

Shri Pentayya of WRLDC stated that, they are not allowing Inter State Tie line over draws above 150 to 200 MW at the most 300 MW. The Western Region Committee also recommended that the frequency should be tightened at about 50 Hz. A copy of presentation made by Shri Pentayya is attached herewith.

Chairman, MERC pointed out that, the Electricity Act 2003 has given sufficient power to the Load Dispatcher for smooth functioning of Grid. Under these circumstances if Grid failures occur then failure analysis become an extremely important aspect. If the failure has occurred, but it ought not to have occurred, an extremely in-depth analysis is required. He suggested that a system of reporting and analysis of every major/ minor occurrences related to Grid may be developed within MERC.

Chairman also suggested that, some kind of centralized control room like SLDC is required in Distribution Licensee area since lot of responsibilities have gone to the Distribution Licensees after Electricity Act 2003. Planning for demand projection, demand analysis, load analysis etc. is required. Every Distribution Licensee already has some mechanism but there is a need for improvement and technology up gradation.

Shri. Ashok Sethi, VP, TPC stated that ancillary service will play vital role in Grid Security. He further stated that earlier, it was thought that commercial aspects will bring the Grid discipline.

RInfra and TPC jointly made a presentation on Mumbai Islanding System. A copy of this presentation is attached.

Agenda Item-3: Capacity Building in the field of Electricity Regulation.

Shri. Shenoy, Director, (A&F) made a presentation on “Capacity Building the field of Electricity Regulations. A copy of presentation is attached.

Chairman, MERC emphasized the need for capacity building in Regulatory Sector. However, methodology is still open. Implementation required vision and knowledge.

Shri. R. R. Mehta, V. P., RInfra Ltd stated that there is a huge gap in domain knowledge, domain expertise and understanding of the sector. There is huge gap in belief between utilities and the Commission, which is required to be bridged.

Shri. Ashok Sethi, V.P. Tata Power Co Ltd, stated that, there has to be receptiveness on both the sides. Performance can be improved by doing cross learning within many constituents. He further stated that, the consumers at large have to be involved.

Shri. Zalte, Director (Operation), MSETCL stated that there are representatives from Technical Education Institutes, Industries, Consumer Organizations in SAC. So they should take the lead. Whatever help is required from utility we will extend.

Agenda Item- 4 : Any Other item with the permission of the Chair.

Shri. Ashok Shethi, V. P. Tata Power Co Ltd, informed that , he is seeking operation support for Distribution. This is regarding authorization for some designated officers under section 126, 135, 152. So Tata Power Co. Ltd. applied to the Principal Secretary, Energy Department earlier and there is notification which is given by the Government towards these designated officers for vigilance activities. So Tata Power Co Ltd does have it is at Sr. Manager Level and above. They have sought it lower level Executive Engineer as well. This notification has not yet come from Energy Department.

Chairman, MERC suggested Tata Power Co Ltd to send, to the Commission, the letter and earlier correspondence made with the Government.

Shri. C. P. Bhatia, Zonal Manager (WZ), Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd informed that his organization require Detailed Project Report (DPR) on “Decentralised Distributed Generation Project (DDGP) under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidhuytikaran Yojana” to enable them to make funding for such project.

Since the Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA) is working on this programme, the Chairman, MERC directed Shri. H. M. Kulkarni, General Manager, MEDA to provide the said DPR to Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd.

Agenda Item-5 : Confirmation of the Minutes of 22nd SAC Meeting and Action Taken Report.

Minuets of the previous SAC meeting and Action Taken Report for the earlier meeting have been confirmed.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

Copies of the Presentation are sent along with the minutes to all the SAC Members/Special Invitees.

Encl: Copy of presentations

- a) MERC presentation on Grid Failure at Northern Region on 30.7.2012 & Northern, Eastern & North- Eastern Region 31.7.2012
- b) WRLDC & MSLTC presentation on Lesson to be learnt from the Grid Failure that occurred in Northern Region & Northern, Eastern & North-Eastern Region.
- c) TPC & RInfra presentation on Mumbai Islanding System
- d) MERC presentation on Capacity Building in the field of Electricity Regulation.

List of Persons who attended the SAC Meeting held on 30 December 2011

Members:

- i) The General Manager Central Railway.
- ii) Shri Anil Kelkar, Institution of Engineers, Pune Local Centre.
- iii) Shri. C. P. Bhatia, Zonal Manager (WZ), Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd

Special Invitees

- iv) Shri O.P. Gupta, General Manager, BEST Undertaking
- v) Shri U.G. Zalte, Director (Operation), MSETCL
- vi) Shri Ashok Sethi, TPC.
- vii) Shri R.R. Mehta, RInfra
- viii) Shri. H. M. Kulkarni, General Manger, MEDA.
- ix) Shri. Guralwar R. Chief Engineer (STU), MSETCL
- x) Shri Rahul Nayak, Indian Energy Exchange Ltd

Copy for information to;

1. Shri. P. Pentayya, General Manager, WRLDC.
2. Shri. Guralwar R. Chief Engineer (STU), MSETCL.
3. Shri. S. T. Shinde, Chief Engineer, MSLDC.