

**MINUTES OF 36<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**(SAC) OF OERC HELD ON 07.02.2024 AT 11:00 HRS.**

**PRESENT:**

1. Smt. Nibedita Misra, Addl. Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Odisha.
2. Shri. S. B. K. Pradhan, Addl. Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Odisha.
3. Sri R. N. Nayak, Ex-CMD, PGCIL, B1-201, PWO Housing Complex, Sector-43, Gurgaon-122002.
4. Sri N. N. Mishra, Ex-Director (Operation), NTPC, M 17 B, Samsara, Sector-60, Gurugram-122101.
5. Prof. Ashok Kumar Tripathy, Former D.G., CPRI, HIG-213, Kanan Vihar Phase-1, BBSR-31.
6. Sri B. K. Mohapatra, representative of UCCI, Rajabagicha, Cuttack.
7. Sri Prasanta Kumar Pradhan, Ex- Director (Comm.), GRIDCO, Nua Road, VSS Nagar, Ward No.9, Bargarh-768028.
8. Sri Girish Chandra Mohapatra, Advocate, MM-6, Civil Township, Rourkela.
9. Smt. Saishree Patnaik, Advocate & Notary, Panel Lawyer Juvenile Justice Board, Dhenkanal, At-Kunjakanta, PO/Dist-Dhenkanal.
10. Smt. Abanti Behera, W/o Randhir Jena, At-Kakat, PO-Kendrapara, Dist- Kendrapara.
11. Prof. (Dr.) Prakash Kumar Hota, Professor of Electrical Engineering & Dean, School of Computer Sciences, VSSUT, Burla.
12. Sri Bibhu Charan Swain, Sr. Consultant, Power Tech Consultants, Kalinga Nagar, Bhubaneswar.
13. Sri Bimal Krushna Mishra, S72, Maitree Vihar, Bhubaneswar-751023.
14. Sri Sanjib Kumar Tripathy, Ex-CEO, GEDCOL, B501, Sakti Paradise, Hanspal, BBSR-752101.
15. Sri Surendra Prasad Mallick, Ex-COO, NESCO, Near Ratikant Memorial Girl's High School, At/P.O. Sahadevkhunta, Dist.- Balasore-756001.
16. Sri Alekh Chandra Mallik, Ex-Director (Comm.), GRIDCO, 335, City Garden, Raghunathpur, Bhubaneswar-751024.
17. Sri Bimal Das, Representative of Confederation of Citizen Association, Bhubaneswar.
18. Sri Burle Balaraju, At/PO: Bhuskudi, Via. Gurandi, Dist. Gajapati-761210.
19. Sri Debabrata Pattanayak, Lesancy Complex, Ward No.15, Rairangpur, Dist. Mayurbhanj-757043.
20. Sri Gour Chandra Panda, President, Bhadrak Chamber of Commerce, At/P.O. Usha Vikas, Charampa, Bhadrak-756100.

**INTRODUCTORY:**

The State Advisory Committee Meeting was convened on 07.02.2024 at 11.00 AM on Hybrid mode in the Conference Hall of the Commission. The agenda for the Meeting covered the discussions on ARR & Tariff proposals of different Power Utilities for FY 2024-25. Shri Gajendra Mohapatra, Officiating Chairperson, Shri S.K. Ray Mohapatra, Member of the Commission and SAC Members were present in the Meeting. Shri N. N Mishra and Shri B. K. Mohapatra, Members of SAC, were present on virtual mode. The Members Shri S. D. Bhanja and Shri Pravakar Dora were not present.

## SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS:

Shri Priyabrata Patnaik, the Commission Secretary, OERC welcomed the Chairperson, Member of the Commission and all the SAC Members and requested the Officiating Chairperson to preside over the Meeting and briefed the agenda. The Chairperson, chaired the proceedings and expressed thanks to the SAC Members for participating in the tariff proceeding for FY 2024-25 and welcomed comments from SAC Members. The Chairperson appreciated the efforts of SAC Members with hope to look forward to SAC's continued contribution to collective inclusive efforts of the Commission. At the outset, the Consumer Counsel appointed by the OERC, i.e. World Institute of Sustainable Energy (WISE), Pune, presented their analysis on ARR proposals of all the Licensees for the FY 2024-25 including their true up proposals.

Member of the Commission, Shri. S. K. Ray Mohapatra requested the SAC Members to give their valuable suggestions on the following in addition to the comments on ARR proposals of Licensees and Generators.

1. Procurement and Installation of Smart meters under CAPEX and its implementation in phase-wise manner, as proposed by DISCOMs.
2. Introduction of Grid Support Charge payable by Industries with CGP, as proposed by OPTCL.

Thereafter, the Members of the SAC presented their comments/ suggestions, which are summarised as under:

1. **Shri R. N. Nayak** mentioned that huge sums of money is pending with erstwhile DISCOMs which should be recognized and plan must be worked out for its progressive recovery in 5-6 years. He emphasized for long term power procurement plan by GRIDCO in collaboration with DISCOMs for procurement of economical power. He further advised for a formal agreement between GRIDCO and the DISCOMs, after Commission's ARR approval, for more systematic operation. GNA has provision of three years plan for power procurement and to its effect, the planning at State level should be there. With regard to OHPC, GoI is providing concession for Pumped storage and Hydro project development and traction in this direction is not seen. With increase in RPO obligation, procurement of green power procured from outside the State has the implication of additional charges and therefore, OHPC must come up with a road map for next 5 years. In case of OPGC, action must be taken to reduce the plant auxiliary consumption and future plan for coal procurement for that plant must be thought of. He agreed to the proposal of levy of Grid Support charges by CGPs. He advised the DISCOMs to plan for implementation of the PM's Suryoday Yojana, 2024. He informed that the CEA has published "Electricity Distribution Network Planning Criteria", 2023 and with time line, we should align our planning as per that criteria. He pointed out that EV Charging Stations in Urban areas is an important requirement for EV penetration which is very progressive and planning for such stations must be emphasized.
2. **Shri N. N. Mishra** stated that, all the Licensees have missed the long-term planning aspect. The Annual plan should be such that it merges with the five-year plan and rolls over to the next year. GRIDCO should procure cheap power from market instead of procuring from costlier contracted power like Barh-1. In case of OPTCL, he pointed out that the Employee cost is at high percentage of the total cost. Transmission loss of 3.05 % may be examined and requested Commission to set a benchmark for OPTCL. For OHPC, he stated that the design energy and the availability has to be looked at a sustainable basis and proposed that it might need CAPEX with time. In case of OPGC, he advised the Commission to set the benchmarks as per CEA's recommendation for units of similar size and introduction of incentive scheme for better performance. He agreed to the proposal for Meters procurement in CAPEX as this would reduce the psychological burden of the consumer



who receives the meter rent in the monthly bills. The DISCOM's proposal for creation of disaster corpus should be based on past data analysis. He acknowledged the proposal of TPWODL for minimum off-take by industries explaining that unless it is there, the return on backend investment may not be justifiable. He advised for reactive power management at LT MSME and HT levels, with incentive mechanism. Further, the reactive power flow should be controlled at the grid level leaving an adequate margin for effective control at the distribution transformer level.

3. **Shri Ashok Kumar Tripathy** denounced the proposals of DISCOMs for more ARR while their performance is not appreciable, even with huge CAPEX investment. The unpredictability of Hydro and Thermal Generators, might create crisis during peak seasons. By 2026, 10,000 MW load is anticipated in the State and in spite of upcoming solar, wind, other tie-ups and increase in RPO, the state still would be in deficit in power. Therefore, he emphasized for generation planning and proposed for agreements with CGPs to the effect of give-and-take relationship as is practised in other States. He suggested for reasonable BSP for DISCOMs so that their performance is not affected by higher power purchase cost. Major thrust may be provided for implementation of Suryodaya Scheme. He agreed to the proposal for procurement of Smart Meters through CAPEX and further proposed for the DISCOMs to bear the cost. He proposed for informal meetings between SAC Members and Licensees for discussion and to come up with solution / suggestions to the Regulatory Commission.
4. **Shri P.K. Pradhan** stated that GRIDCO has projected a surplus position but they are deficit in their peak demand. GRIDCO has shown less availability from OHPC and IPPs compared to their share. Mentioning Vedanta's case of getting CGP status for its 3 IPP's in 2016, he emphasized that the CGP status may be revoked in case of non-supply of power by M/s. Vedanta Ltd. as mentioned in that order of the Commission. He welcomed the proposal of replacement of all meters with smart meters and passing the cost in CAPEX and suggested for phase-wise replacement of meters basing on priority i.e. replacing defective meters first, then the meters whose meter rent has been recovered and then the new meters should be installed at the end. He agreed the proposal of imposing Grid Support Charge on CGPs which is required for bringing necessary discipline in the grid. He disagreed to DISCOM's proposal of minimum offtake clause for Industries having CGP. He mentioned that as per the principle adopted by GoI and CERC, CPPs have to backdown and procure renewable power to meet their RPO obligations. He suggested that CSS may not be levied on the above renewable power procured along with a rider that, the amount of energy they have to forego from CGP for purchasing renewable power, must be sold to GRIDCO. Recently, GRIDCO went for Intra-state power purchase from CGP and nobody extended cooperation. He requested to issue direction that prior to Vesting Order, the arrear bills of consumers may be redressed by the DISCOMs and GRIDCO will be able to receive the amount which will ultimately be passed on the Tariff. He requested for Rs. 2/3 per unit of rebate for timely payment of bills, to small temples in village areas whose consumption is less than 100 units and are billed under GP category. He appreciated the proposal of TPWODL for extension of solar power to rural consumers.
5. **Shri Girish Chandra Mohapatra** stated that there are genuine bill disputes which are not redressed due to time limitation of two years which may be extended to at least 4/5 years. OTS may be extended once again so that the arrears can be collected. He suggested that the meter cost should be borne by the DISCOM. He cited the transmission loss of 3.05% and submitted that the OPTCL has not identified the areas incurring maximum loss and necessary Energy audit of lines and Sub-Stations must be done along with performance audit by third-party Auditor appointed by the Commission. Regarding Grid Support Charge, he informed that Case No.-52/2020 was filed before



the Commission where M/s. Vedanta Ltd. and other Companies opposed the implementation of Grid Support Charge. The Hon'ble High Court also observed that OERC under Sec-181 of the Act should examine the justification and accordingly, a regulation is required to be framed first, then only OPTCL can file for approval for such charge before the Commission.

6. **Smt. Saishree Patnaik** stressed on the issue of electricity theft and insisted for replacement of cable when such meter bypass points are identified. She requested for time extension of OTS scheme and further mentioned the necessity of EV charging Stations. She stated that there should be no tariff increase and DISCOMs' proposal of imposing processing fees for different activities should not be accepted.
7. **Smt. Abanti Behera** expressed concern stating that the DISCOMs proposal for imposing extra charges as processing fees should not be accepted. She requested for no tariff increase considering the paying capacity of the consumers. She also urged that special rebate may be provided for farmers.
8. **Prof.(Dr.) P.K. Hota** suggested to create an atmosphere to build trust between the energy supplier and the consumers. Minimum standards of operation may be set for the Distribution Companies and the monitoring committee should be appointed. He also emphasized for developing the infrastructure for EV Charging Stations. He suggested for Tariff restructuring and shifting from Two-part Tariff to Three-part Tariff, where the third component, after fixed cost and variable cost, should be penalty/incentive based on the grid discipline maintained by the consumers. He stated that LT consumers and HT consumers must be on different tariff slabs since the load requirements are different.
9. **Shri Bibhu Charan Swain** stated that the IPPs and CGPs are indirectly helping the grid and power system and thus separate grid support charges are not required as they are already paying Demand Charges. He informed that, there is disparity in OA charges between DISCOMs. He appreciated the move of the OHPC for two new pumped storage plants and requested for approval of their PPA's by the Commission. GRIDCO being the nodal agency under RE Policies, should go for adequate resource assessment studies. The hydro projects operating at 40% LF due to restriction in water release and these are ideal place to build pumped storage plant in the tail end which can further meet the peak demands. Regarding EV charging stations, GRIDCO being the nodal agency for RE, can come up with a State wide tender for EV charger installation at various parts of the State. He stated that the small hydro projects are presently in dis-functional condition under OHPC which may be auctioned and handed over to private companies so that they can be made operational. He suggested that the distribution cost may be reduced so that the consumers can avail reliable and affordable power. Long term planning is required for GRIDCO, OPTCL and DISCOMS for power procurement and adequate resources utilization. He insisted for the OPGC to look into SAMARTH Mission (Biomass Addition) and that the procurement of pellets should be from inside the State. He shared his views on the Tariff rationalization measures and requested for the submission of annual audited reports of the DISCOMs. He concluded with his request to the Commission to bring about an Intra State Exchange Regulation.
10. **Shri Bimal Krishna Mishra** supported the proposal of Smart meter procurement through CAPEX. He also encouraged for installation of EV charging points and proposed for its reduced tariff and urged that the dealers or manufacturers of EV must be facilitated. He highlighted the low-quality rooftop solar panels provided by the vendors and requested for its examination. He mentioned that



there are companies interested for installing floating solar and pumped storage plants but, the infrastructure to absorb such power generation is unavailable.

11. **Shri Sanjib Kumar Tripathy** made a remark that the CGPs are greatly benefitted by synchronizing to the grid power system and should pay the grid support charge. Regarding Smart meters, he agreed that with shift to roof-top solar, further need for smart meter would be reduced. Regarding Disaster fund, he suggested for Governments support to create such fund along with procurement of some equipment for this purpose, instead of burdening the consumers. Regarding levy of DPS proposal, he suggested that it should be reinstated for domestic consumers so as not to discourage the timely paying consumers. He emphasized for facilitating the EV Charging stations.
12. **Shri Surendra Prasad Mallick** submitted his views on tariff rationalization measures proposal and agreed to the proposal of pro rata billing, Smart meter procurement under CAPEX, no separate agreement for new connection. He did not agree to the proposals of Energy Police Stations, doubling of reconnection charges, imposition of various processing fees and temporary connection charges as equivalent to GP category. He further suggested for simplification of procedure for estimation of energy quantum during energy theft period, replacement of defective meter as soon as it is identified within billing cycle, implementation of EV Tariff and extension of the time limitation of 2 years, to resolve bill disputes.
13. **Shri Alekh Chandra Mallick** discussed the current power scenario in the back drop of climate change and projected that 50 % consumption might be from RE sources by 2030. He informed that the Wind and Small Hydel are prospective in this direction particularly in Lower Machkund area which can have cascading small hydel of 20 MW each. GRIDCO power trading may be emphasized and trading license may be granted to OHPC. He proposed for CGP Pricing policy in the State. He informed that in the PM's Suryodaya scheme, 60% is Central Government component and 40% is DISCOM's component which will be recovered from household consumers rooftop surplus availability. He identified the commercial loss incurred by OPTCL and proposed various technical suggestions regarding new tie-lines of OPTCL. Many new substations are created for prospective new industries which remain unutilised when such industries do not materialize. He ruled out the proposal of minimum off-take by the industries with CGP and stated if the CGPs are used for ancillary operations like black start, the evacuation from CGPs will be encouraged. He suggested for special tariff for Mega Steel plants to motivate them to continue running in the State. He further informed that GoI has a scheme for Thermal plants to purchase imported coal upto 10% in order to increase their PLF and OPGC should implement that.
14. **Shri Bimal Das** discredited the work done by DISCOMs and criticized the frequent power interruptions without any viable reasons. He acknowledged all the views stated by the SAC Members.
15. **Shri Burle Balaraju** explained about under loaded condition of 132/33KV Grid S/S, R.Udaygiri and informed that the District is not being benefitted by it. He expressed his dissatisfaction about the quality of electrical inspection in the areas of elephant movement. He raised his concern for electrical accidents caused due to unauthorized access of consumers to overhead lines. He narrated certain proposals and drew the attention of TPSODL authority for its implementation in the field.
16. **Shri Debabrata Pattanayak** informed that in his town at Rairagpur, 90% of the consumers belong to ST category who face problem for various kinds of assessments and charges and disagreed the



proposal for imposing various service processing charges. He advised the DISCOMs for improving performance and then create the disaster corpus fund by themselves. He highlighted that the Municipality and NAC streetlights/timers are not being maintained and a lot of energy is wasted. Rooftop Solar Distributors registration may be done by Distribution companies in order to ensure quality product and service. He emphasized for educating the tribal people for timely payment of bills through digital mode.

17. **Shri Gour Chandra Panda** stated that the focus should be shifted from revenue collection to reducing transmission and distribution loss. The maintenance of Power house, Transmission Grid Substations and Distribution Substation must be preplanned and streamlined, so that the consumers are not harassed with repeated power interruptions. The 11KV overhead lines must be converted to AB cables which encounter frequent earth fault. He further submitted the proposal for issuing of I-Cards to all SAC Members who can assist/advice the working professionals of power sector, in case of requirements.
18. **Shri B. K. Mohapatra** pointed out the absence of audited balance sheets of the licensees. He further stated that half yearly performance analysis and subsequent publication in newspapers is not being done by DISCOMs. He urged that the DPS should be removed because with the presence provision for disconnection in case of non-payment of bills, DPS provision is not required. He mentioned the issue where the Meters are provided by DISCOM and meter rent is recovered from the consumer and the process repeats even though the meters are under manufacturer's warranty period. Therefore, he requested to make regulation to charge the consumer with reasonable price and to charge once.
19. **Shri S. K. Mishra**, CMD, OPTCL submitted his reply referring to the issue of high employee cost. He remarked that two long pending issues have been finalized, which are cadre restricting of executives of OPTCL as per the guidelines of GoO. Nine hierarchies in executive cadre are being converted to six, resulting in some increase in post at GM and Sr. GM level. The wage revision of non-executives pending since 2020 has been completed. He further added that around 150 nos. of Pensioners have been added and DA & other allowances will also increase. He also responded regarding transmission loss and submitted that it has been decreasing as per data analysis, i.e. 2007-08: 4.82%, 2023-24(upto Sept-2023): 3.12 % and forecasted for 2024-25: 3.05%. He informed that a host of measures have been taken, such as changing of 35-40 years old Conductors, replacing old Transformers with lower capacity (12.5MVA) transformers and replacement of old lines which are either optimally loaded or overloaded to HTLS. He further added that, the major issue is the lopsided loading of the lines and assets which are utilized upto 45% for which they have raised the issue in GCC and Inter Co-Ordination Committee of DISCOMs. It is decided to utilize 33 KV feeder optimally. He referred to 765KV transmission network expansion in Odisha and stated that two 765 KV ISTS lines, i.e. Angul to Gopalpur and Angul to Paradeep have been planned and they are in the tendering process, which shall be commissioned by OPTCL in TBCB Mode. He mentioned that another 765 KV sub-station is planned in Kolabira area to tap the power from the Floating Solar sources, new power plant by NMC and from the augmented capacity of OPGC. The 765 KV Kolabira S/S will be connected to Duburi Grid S/S which is the load center and shall cater the upcoming demand. He further submitted about the projects of 765 KV Paradeep-Mahakalpada line, 400KV Sub-station at Joda, 400 KV S/S at Ersama near Paradeep and 400 KV S/S near Neulapoi. He informed that the Commission had approved the 40<sup>th</sup> Transmission Plan for the current FY 2023-24. However, as per the advice of the Commission, it has been revised and has been further extended till FY 2026-27 and it shall be submitted shortly. Over and above that, the



next transmission plan will be for 10 years i.e. for FY 2036-37, specifically since 2036 will mark 100 years of creation of the State of Odisha. The next transmission plan for 2047 has also started, it shall mark 100 years of independence of India. At this moment, there are 193 Grid S/Ss with transformation capacity of 26000 MVA and transmission network of 16000+ circuit kms. By March 2024, there will be 200 Grid S/Ss and 210 Grid S/Ss by 2025 and the analysis shows that since 2013, 10 Grid S/Ss and 600 ckms of transmission network have been added every year and the process still continues. By 2026-27, 210 and by 2030, 230 Grid S/Ss would be there and the percentage of 765 KV and 400KV Grids will increase. Work is being done for the ring connectivity at 220 KV level-which shall be completed by 2025-26. State asset management system will be completed by 2025-26. Sixty-five Grids will be completely automated with central operation from Bhubaneswar by 2027. All 210 grids will be automated and centrally operated & controlled in due course. He concluded saying, that the such expansion and technological modernization is necessary and infrastructure must come up before demand. With the MoUs signed for Make in Odisha, huge demand is expected and thus the projected ARR may be considered compassionately and approved. In the last Financial Year, OPTCL has incurred loss on account of less LTOA and STOA and also with reduced transmission charges from 28 p/unit to 24 p/unit and for the same appropriate consideration may be made.

20. **Shri Trilochan Panda, MD, GRIDCO** addressing on the various issues raised by the Members replied that long term power procurement planning is being done for by working in coordination with the Distribution Companies, for 2030, 2036 and 2047 along with involvement of GoO. Such strategic long-term planning considering the present demand of the State, resource adequacy norms, national mandate for RPO obligations and the various variabilities is underway. He informed that there has been rise in demand, resulting from the change in climatic condition. He indicated that the storage capacity of the hydro stations has gone down and therefore the capability to meet the rising demand has reduced. Currently the average demand is 4300 MW and peak demand is 5500 MW and moving forward, average demand is expected to be 5300 MW by 2030, 6500 MW by 2036 and 9200 MW by 2047. In contrast, with the climate change aspect, the peak demand as of today is 5500 MW and is expected to rise to 7600 MW in 2030, 10500 MW in 2036 and around 17000 MW in 2047. The peak demand is increasing in a larger proportion compared to the average demand and in order to address the issue, the storage capacity has to be enhanced. For this, discussions are being done with OHPC & private companies and correspondences are being done with GoI for additional support. He highlighted the fact that with the current contracted capacity of 8635 MW, Thermal : Renewable ratio is 55 : 45 and after 25 years, it will be 30 : 70. Therefore, we all must work towards flattening the demand curve and improve grid capacity to absorb such generation. Regarding the Floating solar project near Hiraakud, a green energy corridor has been planned in coordination with OPTCL and has been submitted to GoI for approval of Rs.4200 Crs. for such construction. He further talked about the issues of CGPs and informed that in the first week of January of 2024, a meeting was held with the CGPs and they will support us during peak period of summer but their major concern is regarding price and Intra-State DSM. Responding to the queries, he further deliberated that the IPPs are not giving the actual share of power, they are supposed to give and GRIDCO has also agreed for procurement of imported coal in case on non-availability of linkage coal. He also clarified that the costlier power from Barh and Kanti Bijli are not been availed of by GRIDCO and it has been reallocated to other States. He identified the fact that the benefit of CAPEX investment done by DISCOMs has not yet been realized in the right perspective.
21. **Shri Amresh Kumar, MD, OHPC** replied to the concerns raised by the Members and informed that currently three pumped storage projects are underway. The Upper Indravati pump storage with



capacity of 600 MW is quite in advance stage and the techno-economical clearance from CEA is expected within 2-3 months. The Upper Kolab pumped storage with proposed capacity of 326 MW is under review for capacity enhancement to 600 MW, Balimela pumped storage is under geo-technical investigation stage. As per the plan, Upper Indravati PSP will be commissioned by April, 2030, Upper Kolab PSP is scheduled to be commissioned by FY 2031-32 and Balimela PSP will be commissioned by FY 32. Regarding the health of the machines and capital expenses, he appraised that the health of hydro machines are constantly improving and had achieved the highest availability in the last year. Maximum availability for hydro machine with carry over reservoir system is 91 % considering annually, monthly and quarterly maintenance system and OHPC is close to 89% and have an internal target for achieving beyond 90% in the coming two years. He further deliberated that capital expenditure are being done in phased manner and Burla & Chiplima PH renovations have been completed. Two units at Upper Indravati have completed and another unit is under progress. He highlighted on the Machkund PH issue stating that it is a JV between GoO and GoAP and they have jointly planned for 98 MW of hydro plant at 3 different places. Further, he informed that the technical audit is being done by Central agency, CBIP and new technologies are being adopted to improve the range of the machines.

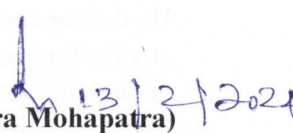
22. **Shri Manas Ranjan Rout, MD, OPGC** mentioned that the thermal units of OPGC will complete 30 years of service life in 2026. Therefore, R&M activities have been undertaken, after which the SHR will improve. The auxiliary consumption is as per design of the machines and it is very difficult to reduce since common equipment are used for all four units as per the CERC guidelines. Regarding the usage of good quality coal, discussions with GRIDCO is continuing to increase the PLF of Stage-I and a workable solution is being explored. Stage-2 is having around 95% PLF and work towards expansion of units is under process. Evacuation of this power has not been finalized and work is under progress.
23. **Shri B. B. Mehta, Director, SLDC** deliberated that very advanced technology is being deployed for upcoming challenges with grid operation. SAMAST software bid has been opened and tender for Wide Area Measurement has been published and these are funded through PSDF. He stated that SLDC has received the Best SLDC award in the Country, 2023 for its outstanding performance. He also informed that last year, the maximum demand crossed 6500 MW with 139 MUs handled on that day.
24. **Shri Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCODL** addressed three common issues on behalf of all the four DISCOMs. Regarding corpus for natural calamities, he stated the fact that Insurance companies are not willing to cover the risk of 33KV Overhead lines. Therefore, a corpus is proposed to make the DISCOMs self-reliant and less dependent on Government support during such calamities. In case of Energy Police Station, even though the concept has not been a great success in the past, he requested for one Energy Police Station per DISCOM on experimental basis. Further explaining about pro rata billing, he mentioned that pro rata billing is a mathematically fair system and is already in practice in states of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
25. **Shri K. C. Nanda, GM (RA & Strategy), TPWODL** made a short presentation on “Model Scheme to Solarise Rural Households through Community Solarization mechanism under RTS-II” emphasising for its approval.
26. **Shri A. K. Garg, CEO, TPSODL** supplemented saying all issues have already been covered by his counterparts of other Distribution Companies.



27. **Shri Bhaskar Sarkar, CEO, TPNODL** also agreed to the time limitation issue for resolving disputed bills as shared by the Members. He submitted that the microgrids have been installed for the first time in Odisha to provide electricity to the remote areas of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Simlipal forest. In addition, they have approached the GoO to transfer certain standalone units of around 6000 Nos. installed by OREDA (in the entire State) and the proposal has been allowed.
28. **Energy Department** on behalf of Government of Odisha stated that the Government have been providing huge budgetary support over the years in order to maintain low tariff and requested not to increase the tariff for the year 2024-25.
29. **Shri. S. K. Ray Mohapatra, Member of the Commission**, informed all SAC Members that the estimated energy requirements is around 39000 MU and peak is expected to go beyond 6000 MW. He deliberated that additional energy available is around 3000 MU which is not adequate to meet any contingency requirement in case of outage of 660 MW thermal unit of OPGC. As per Vesting Order, all the four DISCOMs were supposed to invest 5640 Crs. in five years. The Business Plan has already been approved for five years for all the DISCOMs and the CAPEX plans have also been approved in advance for left out period. Main concern is reduction in availability of hydro generation from Upper Kolab, Balimela and Upper Indravati. There is reduction in design energy particularly because of hydrology failure. The hydro tariff may be the lowest in the country. As far as IPPs are concerned, availability is also less compared to their share of the state. The reduced availability is a loss to the entire state and Government should take action so that the availability from these IPPs commissioned within the state can be improved. He mentioned that, the average tariff of Odisha is among the lowest in many states. Even the Power Purchase cost is less than national average. Number of GRFs operating in DISCOM area has increased from 11 Nos. to 17 Nos. As per Vesting Order of DISCOMs, independent performance audit needs to be done after 3 years of operation. In case of TPCODL, the auditor was appointed by the Commission and audit has already been completed by the Auditing firm. Chairperson, OERC supplemented that OERC Officers are also visiting the site of DISCOMs to analyse and verify the work executed under CAPEX including performance of the DISCOMs in terms of Consumer satisfaction and method of Grievance Redressals. Member, OERC insisted the DISCOMs to provide the norms for engagement of outsourced employees and regular employees of licensees. He further discussed the reason behind the increase in Power Purchase Cost. High ash handling and transportation cost as per MoP guidelines and increase in fuel cost are primarily responsible for increase in Power Purchase Cost. Accordingly, Fuel and Power Purchase adjustment is being done by GRIDCO. Last year special tariff was introduced for EV charging and OERC will look into further reduction in tariff, so that more EV charging infrastructures are developed within the state. He also added that, Solarisation of agricultural pump-sets is also a major concern since KUSUM-C implementation is not encouraging. Modifications may be proposed by the DISCOMs and Government for successful implementation, as it will lead to number of benefits in terms of reduction in loss & cross subsidy burden on subsidizing consumers, encourage DSM, conservation of ground water etc. He also informed the SAC Members about the implementation of 20 Lakhs of BLDC fans with Government support, that would save energy of around 650 MUs per annum which is equivalent to saving in Power Purchase Cost of about Rs.200 Crs. He concluded by informing that the OERC (Promotion of Renewable Energy through Green Energy Open Access Regulations), 2023 has been notified by the Commission and the said regulation has provision for banking facility to encourage RE development and promotion of production of Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia within the state.



30. Chairperson of the Commission appreciated the commendable active participation of all the SAC Members and the Licensees and assured that all the suggestions and remarks shall be taken into consideration during Tariff determination.
31. Shri Priyabrata Patnaik, the Commission Secretary, thanked all the participants for attending the Meeting and also for giving their valuable suggestions on the proposed Tariff.

  
(Gajendra Mohapatra)  
Officiating Chairperson