

Record note of the Review Meeting on Performance of OPTCL for the period from April 2021 to September, 2021 (FY 2021-22)

Date of Review : 20.12.2021 at 11: 00 AM
Period of Review : FY 2021-22 (April 2021 to September 2021)
Representative of OPTCL Present : As per list enclosed as Annexure-I.

The Commission has conducted the review meeting of OPTCL on virtual mode on account of need for continuous adherence to the social distancing norms arising out of COVID-19 pandemic situation.

1. The Performance of OPTCL for the first half of FY 2021-22 was reviewed by the Commission on 20.12.2021. During the review, financial status, status of completed/ongoing/upcoming projects, major O&M activities, status of telecom projects and steps taken by IT & HRD wing of OPTCL were discussed.
2. The Commission reviewed the performance of OPTCL with reference to the execution of various ongoing transmission projects. The present status of the transmission assets available with OPTCL is as follows:

	As on 31.03.2021	Addition during April, 2021 to September 2021	As on 30.09.2021
No. of grid S/S	165	08	173
EHT Line ckt. KM	14804.617	511.834 (61.656 ckt.KM in 220 kV & 450.178 ckt.KM in 132 kV)	15316.451
Transformation Capacity (MVA)	22301	460 MVA (20 MVA in 1 no of O&M S/S + 440 MVA in 1 no of new s/s)	22736 MVA

3. OPTCL has submitted that 10 nos. of projects (6 nos of substations, 4 nos of transmission lines) have been completed during the period under review with a total investment of about Rs.289.20 Crores. OPTCL further submitted the present status of 44 nos. of ongoing projects, which includes 1 no. of 400 kV S/S, 16 nos. of 220 kV S/S, 15 nos. of 132 kV S/S and 12 nos. of other projects (mainly transmission lines). Out of the above, 1 no of 400 KV s/s at Meramundali B is expected to be completed by December, 2021. Further, out of the other ongoing projects, 8 nos. of 220 kV sub-station, 5nos. of 132 kV sub-stations are expected to be completed within FY 2021-22.
4. OPTCL has proposed to execute 11 nos. of new transmission projects (9 nos. of s/s and 2 nos. of lines) with an estimated cost of Rs.2526 crores in future years. Out of them, 3 nos. of projects is under estimation stage, 4 nos. of projects are to be

retendered and survey work is under progress in case of 1 no. of project. Bids were opened for balance 3 nos. of upcoming projects and to be awarded. During the discussion on delay in project execution due to forest clearance, M.D., OPTCL said that they have engaged Sri Ajay Mohapatra, Retd., PCCF for guidance and pursue the matter in various departments. Things are moving and the projects pending for forest clearance will be cleared within next few months.

5. As regards O&M activity, during the period from April 2021 to September, 2021, OPTCL has augmented 1 no of S/S with addition of 20 MVA transformation capacity at an investment of Rs.3.53 Crores in TPSODL area (Bhawanipatna – 25 to 45 MVA). The conversion work of 132 KV New Bolangir-Sonepur and Pradeep-Jagatsinghpur single ckt. lines to double ckt. lines with an investment of Rs.10.57 cr. are stopped due to RoW & diversion of railway line and plastic park respectively. Both the projects are scheduled to be completed by March, 2022.
6. As a part of R&M activity, OPTCL has procured 24 nos. Apex- 100 energy meters, 3 nos. of VCBs and 109 nos. of isolators. OPTCL has placed orders for procurement of relays, structures, tower materials, protective equipments for electrical safety etc. OPTCL has conductor replacement plan of 132 kV Kendrapara-Paradip Ckt.1 & II (35 KMs.), Berhmapur-Digapahandi (34 K.M.s), 220 kV TTPS-Joda Ckt-II (134 K.M.s and up-gradation of 132 kV Joda-Barbil line from ACSR Panther to HTLS.
7. OPTCL submitted that it has undertaken the following power supply developmental works on receipt of assistance from Power Supply Development Fund (PSDF).
 - Installation of 125 MVAR Bus Reactor along with construction of associated bay each at 400 kV s/s at Mendhasal, Meramundali and New Duburi for VAR control for stabilization of system voltage. The installation works at Meramundali has been completed and submitted for inspection.
 - Substation Automation Scheme (SAS) has been completed in 5 nos. of substations (Aska, Banki, Sambalpur, Brajarajnagar and Kesura). SAS work under PSDF funding is in progress in 16 nos. of s/s at Bhubaneswar, Nayagr, Khurda, Laxmipur, Rayagada, Rairangpur, Dhenkanal, Puri, Sunabeda, Chainpal, Phulnakhara, Chandpur, Kharagprasad, Ranasinghpur, Jharsuguda, Khajurikanta. (SOC-December 2021) OPTCL has placed work order for implementation of SAS in 7 nos. of s/s namely Balasore, Bidanasi, Budhipadar, Katapali, Narendrapur, New Bolangir and Paradeep.

8. OPTCL has taken up the work for SCADA interface point at vital 132 KV s/s by laying 1745 KMs of OPGW cables with an estimated cost of Rs.48 cr. In the meantime, OPTCL has completed stringing of 1712 KMs of OPGW cables with an expenditure of Rs.42.16 cr.(till 30.09.2021). Balance work is delayed due to pending diversion/construction of new towers and is expected to be completed by January, 2022. OPTCL is in the process of providing of optical fiber based communication along with terminal equipments in different substations having length of 2289 KMs with PSDF support. The Letter of Award for this purpose to the tune of Rs.58.21 crore was issued on 28.02.2019, out of which OPTCL shall avail Rs.23.04 crores as grant from PSDF. The project is expected to be completed by December 2021. OPTCL has already laid around 5991 K.M.s of OPGW and another 3300 K.M.s OPGW will be covered under new project. OPTCL is earning a revenue of about Rs.3.50 Cr. per annum at present by way of leasing dark fibers to Powergrid, BSNL,LWTPL, Airtel. OPTCL floated EoI for finalization of new bidders for taking dark fibre on lease. OPTCL expects substantial increase of earning on this account after commissioning of OPGW networks in its upcoming projects. The status of OPGW laying is as follows :

Voltage level	Total OPGW laid as on 31.03.2021(in KM)	Total OPGW laid Apr, 21 – Sep, 21 (in KM)	Total OPGW laid as on 30.09.2021 (in KM)
132 KV	2416	281	2697
220 kV	2895	54	2949
400 kV	345	0	345
Total	5656	335	5991

9. OPTCL has completed the establishment of Primary Data Centre (PDC) in OPTCL, to cover OPTCL, GRIDCO, SLDC and DISCOM utilities. All the applications have been migrated from OPTCL/GRIDCO/SLDC and hosted at PDC. OPTCL has mapped 127 nos of grid s/s, 29456 nos. of towers and 8427.445 route KMs in GIS. OPTCL has completed the implementation of e-Shakti in its 89 nos. of DDO units in HR, Pay Roll, Pension, Procurement, Project, Inventory, Finance and Energy Modules. Apart from various initiatives taken by IT wing, CCTV surveillance system is now available in 66 grid s/s (work order issued for another 29 nos. of grid s/s).

10. OPTCL submitted that considering both executive & non-executive posts, there are about 2637 nos. of vacancies existing (as on 30.09.2021) against the sanctioned strength of 5149 nos.
11. As submitted, OPTCL has handled 14,392.84 MU of energy against OERC approval of 14,165 MU(prorated) during the first six months of FY 2021-22. During the period, OPTCL has earned revenue of Rs.402.25 crore against OERC approval of Rs.396.62 (prorated). The detailed comparative statement is presented in table below:

Revenue Approved (Prorated) vis-à-vis Actual for first half of FY 2021-22

Source	ESTIMATE BY OERC FOR FY 2021-22(Prorated)			ACTUAL FOR FIRST HALF OF FY 2021-22		
	Energy handled (MU)	Rate P/U	Amount Billed (Rs.Cr)	Energy (MU)	Rate P/U	Amount Billed (Rs Cr.)
TPCODL	4644.05		130.03	4853.26		135.63
TPNODL	2938.65		82.28	2787.64		77.90
TPWODL	4218.53		118.12	4426.91		123.72
TPSODL	2033.78		56.95	1994.18		55.74
Less energy handled in DISCOMs network						
TOTAL DISCOMS	13835.00	28.00	387.38	14061.99	28.00	392.99
CGPS Wheeling	330.00	28.00	9.24	330.85	28.00	9.26
Sale to CPP						
SUB TOTAL			9.24			9.26
GRAND TOTAL	14165.00		396.62	14392.84		402.25

12. While going through the information on revenue and expenditure, it appears that OPTCL is overdrawing the loan without assessing the possible expenditures. The Commission therefore asked OPTCL to make its assessment in such a way that the loan should be drawn in a conservative manner in order to have less idle cash. A detailed report on the loan and expenditure should be furnished to the Commission.
13. Apart from the above discussions/ observations, the Commission directed as under:
- (i) The Commission expressed its concern about the delay in 13 nos. of project primarily because of forest clearances. The Commission feels that perhaps OPTCL is not pursuing the matters appropriately with the concerned departments for which the completed infrastructures of the transmission system are not being put into service. OPTCL is therefore directed to take up forest clearance and RoW matters with the Energy Department for resolving these issues with the concerned Departments and District Administration. OPTCL should take the appropriate steps so that the projects approved by the Commission and under execution should be completed within the time

schedule to avoid cost and time overrun. OPTCL is also required to submit a report whether safe operation of the Chandipur substation (under execution) will be possible after its commissioning, since water logging is being experienced in the area selected for the substation. Further, the reason of less expenditure in Hinjilicut substation (16.48 Cr out of total project estimated cost of 35.72 Cr.) even after completion of 90% of the works needs explanation.

- (ii) A detailed statement on loan and expenditure and the action taken for keeping less idle cash is to be furnished by 28.02.2022.
- (iii) The projects are to be monitored in a more professional manner. Since, OPTCL is executing more than 700 cr. of projects in a year, it should have a protocol in place for monitoring the progress of the projects. Assistance of professional experts may be taken during design, estimate, preparation of bill of materials, tendering etc. Further, OPTCL may think for adoption of TBCB model for execution of its transmission projects, which is financially most advisable option in the present time.
- (iv) The execution of projects is not moving in a desired manner although the primary work/responsibility of OPTCL is to have the time bound completion of projects. All the activities of the projects are to be monitored sincerely and the M.D., OPTCL should try to inculcate the sense of urgency as regards to timely execution of the projects among its officials.
- (v) OPTCL was directed to submit the list of assets created by them under different Government funded schemes and existing in different DISCOM areas. The Commission had earlier requested Government to get completed the verification of such assets within 15.07.2021. The Commission asked the stakeholders OPTCL, GRIDCO and DISCOMs to sort-out the issues through discussions. Since, GRIDCO is the shareholder in DISCOMs, therefore in its own interest it should take the lead role under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Energy to conduct meeting for resolution of pending unresolved issues. The Commission further directed FA to Government, Department of Energy, Government of Odisha present in the meeting, to take up the matter on urgent basis with the concerned agencies to resolve/reconcile the differences, if any. The Commission further suggested that if required the Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Energy

and Finance department may take the meetings in this regard to resolve the issues and firm up the assets. The Commission observed that the licensees shall not insist on small issues and finalise the matter at the earliest with GRIDCO and OPTCL.

- (vi) OPTCL should submit the annual accounts for the FY 2020-21 immediately.
- (vii) Since, proper cooperation and instant resolution of issues are required for efficient functioning of the power sector in the State, the Commission reiterated its earlier direction of conducting monthly co-ordination meetings by the Managing Director, OPTCL with the CEO's of the DISCOMs. The CLD, SLDC should also attend such meetings. M.D., OPTCL shall fix the date and time of such meetings and share the schedule with OERC. The Commission may depute its officials to attend such meetings as observer. The issues identified by any utility have to be shared before hand for a fruitful deliberation and resolution. A copy of the minutes of such meeting should also be marked to OERC for information.
- (viii) OPTCL is now managing its operation with 50% of the HR strength. Reassessment of Human Resource structure is required since most of the operations are now being carried out through automation. Therefore, the Commission directs OPTCL to plan for its HR restructuring and the persons engaged in the operation may be redeployed. Further recruitment plan should commensurate with the retirement as well as requirement in the present scenario.
- (ix) On-line training programmes should be preferred in the prevailing COVID-19 situation and accordingly training module may be redesigned. Since, rapidity of transmission is very high for Omicron, OPTCL should take utmost care and to observe the COVID protocols issued by the Government during the field visit, hands on training etc. of its employee.

Representatives of OPTCL

1. Sri Sanjay Kumar Mishra, IRTS, MD
2. Sri U.K.Pati, Director (Operation)
3. Sri R.L.Panda, Director(Project)
4. Sri S. K. Swain, Director (Finance)
5. Sri R.N. Pratihari, Director (HRD)
6. Sri B.B.Meheta, CLD(SLDC)