

Minutes of Regional Forum of Regulators for Eastern and North-Eastern States (FORENS) held at Rajgiri, Bihar on 13th and 14th November, 2014 hosted by BERC

The third meeting of the Forum of Regulators of Eastern & North Eastern States was held on 13-14 November, 2014 at Rajgiri, Bihar.

Members Present:

1. Sri U.N. Panjiar, Chairperson, BERC
2. Sri Digvijai Nath, Chairman, Arunachal Pradesh ERC
3. Er. Donary A. Shishak, Chairman, Nagaland ERC
4. Sri S.C. Jha, Member, BERC
5. Sri A.K. Das, Member, OERC
6. Sri S.P. Swain, Member, OERC
7. Sri Sujit Dasgupta, Member, WBERC
8. Dr. Rajani Kanta Gogoi, Member, Assam ERC
9. Sri Sunil Verma, Member (Finance), Jharkhand ERC
10. Sri Deepak Chakravorty, Member, AERC

Special Invitee:

1. Sri M.R. Karmakar, Ex-Chairman, Tripura ERC
2. Sri N. Shyamsundar Singh, Ex-Member, Joint ERC Manipur & Mizoram
3. Sri Tapan Chatterjee, Ex-Member, Assam ERC
4. Sri B.K. Misra, Ex-Member, OERC
5. Sri Shankar Mukhopadhyay, CESC
6. Sri A. Raha, CESC
7. Sri H. Baran, PR
8. Sri Ramchandra, PGCIL
9. Sri Ziauddin, PTC

Official Present:

1. Sri G.K. Dhall (Secretary, OERC), Secretary FORENS
2. Sri Parmanand Singh, Secretary, Bihar ERC

Meeting on 13.11.2014

Agenda Item No.1 : Inauguration of the Conference (FORENS) by Sri U.N. Panjiar, Chairperson, Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission, Patna

At the outset Sri U.N. Panjiar, Chairperson, Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission welcomed all the members of the Eastern and North Eastern States present

at Rajgir for the third meeting of the FORENS. He said that Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission is glad to host the third meeting of FORENS at Rajgir. He explained about the historical importance of Rajgir and some of the sites of Buddhist importance which can be visited. Mr. Panjiar briefed about the purpose of the meeting and hoped that the deliberation on the issues of common interest will be fruitful.

Agenda Item No.2 : Key Note address by Sri S.C. Jha, Member, BERC

Sri S.C. Jha, Member, BERC welcomed all the members of the FORENS present at Rajgir during the 3rd meeting and highlighted the general power scenario of Bihar. During his address Sri Jha informed the members that the availability of power in Bihar has improved. The two units of 110 MW each at Barauni Thermal Power Station is under R&M and is likely to start generation in 2015 and two more units of 250 MW each is under construction. He also informed that out of two units of 110 MW each at Kanti, one unit has started generation and another is also going to start by December, 2014. Sri Jha informed the members that besides Barauni and Muzaffarpur, State is going to get its share from NTPC Barh which is going to start production sometimes in December, 2014. Besides this three units of 660 MW at Nabinagar are also under construction (under Joint Venture with NTPC).

Sri Jha expressed his concern about high T&D loss to the tune of 47% in Bihar. He said that the Commission has approved distribution loss of 23% for both the DISCOMs for the year 2013-14 and stressed that a lot needs to be done by DISCOMs to improve the distribution losses.

Sri Jha also introduced the three delegates Sri Shankar Mukhopadhyay from CESC, Sri Ramchandra, PGCIL and Sri Ziauddin from PTC who were invited to the meeting for discussion on the subjects 'T&D Loss' and 'Cross Border Power Trade' respectively.

Agenda Item No.3: Approval of financial status and Adoption of the minutes of 2nd meeting of the FORENS held on 7th & 8th February, 2014 at Kaziranga, Assam

- a) Presentation of financial statements of FORENS and discussion on revision of annual membership subscription:

The Secretary, FORENS presented the financial statements of FORENS for FY 2013-14 and 2014-15. The Secretary highlighted that the annual subscriptions are not been regularly received from the member Commissions. After considering the views of the single member Commissions, it was decided that from FY 2015-16, the annual membership contribution in respect of single member Commissions (only) shall be Rs.50,000 p.a. and for other member Commissions Rs.1,00,000 p.a. With this the financial statement for FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 are approved.

- b) Presentation and adoption for society registration fee for FORENS:

The Secretary FORENS presented the draft bye laws of the FORENS for the purpose of registration as a Society. The Secretary also highlighted the various documentation needed for income tax purposes. It was decided that a committee comprising of Sri S.P. Swain, Member, OERC, Sri A.K. Das, Member, OERC, Sri S.C. Jha, Member, BEREC and Sri S. Dasgupta, Member, WBERC will examine the draft bye-laws and finalise the same so as to enable FORENS to be registered as a Society.

- c) Discussion on the proposal for “Comparative Study of Triff Orders and Practices of FORENS member Regulators”:

During the course of the 2nd meeting of the FORENS at Kajiranga, Sri Ananda Kumar, Chairperson, Meghalaya ERC suggested that a study may be conducted to explore and identify the common points of convergence and divergence in respect of tariff practices and regulatory measures followed by the Member Commissions. Towards this end, the Secretary FORENS explained the exploratory work already undertaken for the project and the financial burden involved. The Forum deliberated on this issue and felt that the financial implications are on the higher side and there is need for exploring additional consultant and seeking quotations if needed in a transparent manner for the completion of the project so as to minimize the financial burden.

- d) Other Issues discussed and deliberated:

- 1) The member Commissions opined that the Forum should strive to associate it with research and publication in the field of power tariffs and practices followed in the Eastern and North Eastern States of India.
- 2) It was agreed that the views of the member Commissions on various issues and as deliberated from time to time in the meetings of the FORENS should be forwarded to CERC.
- 3) It is resolved that the next meeting of the FORENS shall be hosted by Jharkhand ERC.

With this observation the meetings of the 2nd meeting of the FORENS held at Kajiranga, Assam were confirmed and adopted.

Agenda Item No.4(a):

Presentation on the issues involving “T&C Loss” by Sri A. Raha from CESC and Sri Raha traced the journey and growth of CESC Ltd. from the beginning to the presenting highlighting the steps taken and changes engineered so as to ensure the reduction in the T&C losses. This was appreciated by all the delegates/ participant members. Hard copy of the presentation so made is enclosed.

Agenda Item No.4(b): Presentation on ‘Issues and implications of Cross-border Power Trade’ by Sri Ramchandra, PGCIL & Sri Ziauddin, PTC

Sri Ramchandra, PGCIL & Sri Ziauddin, PTC made a presentation on the issues and implication of cross-border power trade. In the presentation Sri Ramchandra, PGCIL & Sri Ziauddin, PTC highlighted the existing framework of regional cooperation for power trade in South Asia and specifically between Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and India. They also highlighted the key challenges for creating a robust regional power market. This presentation was well appreciated by all the delegates/ participants members. Hard copy of the presentation so made is enclosed.

Vote of Thanks:

Sri G.K. Dhall, Secretary, FORENS offered vote of thanks to the Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission for organizing the conference and ensuring its successful completion. He also congratulated and offered thanks to all the members of FORENS for devoting valuable time and making the meeting a grand success. He took the opportunity to offer thanks to Sri M.R. Karmakar, Ex-Chairman, Tripura ERC, Sri N. Shyamsundar Singh, Ex-Member, Joint ERC Manipur & Mizoram, Sri Tapan Chatterjee, Ex-Member, Assam ERC, Sri B.K. Misra, Ex-Member, OERC for devoting their valuable time and sharing their vast experiences.

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