

**MINUTES OF THE 33rd MEETING OF STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(SAC) OF OERC HELD ON 15.03.2023 AT 11:00 AM**

PRESENT:

1. Smt. Lipsa Das, Additional Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Odisha
2. Sri Girish Chandra Mohapatra, Advocate, Rourkela,
3. Sri Shiba Dutta Bhanja, Ex-GM, NESCO
4. Prof. (Dr.) Prakash Kumar Hota, Professor of Electrical Engineering & Dean, School of Computer Sciences, VSSUT, Burla
5. Shri P. K. Pradhan, Ex-Director(Comm.) GRIDCO, Nua Road, VSS Nagar, Bargarh
6. Shri Prabhakar Dora, Rayagada
7. Sri Burle Balaraju, At/PO: Bhuskudi, Dist. Gajapati
8. Sri Debabrata Pattanayak, Rairangpur, Dist. Mayurbhanj
9. Shri Bidyadhar Mohanty, President, Labour Union (INTUC), Jajpur Road
10. Sri Gour Chandra Panda, President, Bhadrak Chamber of Commerce
11. Sri Surendra Prasad Mallick, Ex-COO, NESCO
12. Smt. Saishree Pattnaik, Advocate & Notary, At-Kunjakanta, PO/Dist-Dhenkanal
13. Smt. Abanti Behera, At. Kakat, PO/Dist. Kendrapara
14. Sri Alekh Chandra Mallik, Ex-Director (Comm.), GRIDCO
15. Shri Bimal Das, Representative of Confederation of Citizen Association, Bhubaneswar
16. Shri Bibhu Charan Swain, Sr. Consultant, M/s. Power Tech Consultants, Bhubaneswar
17. Sri Bimal Krushna Mishra, S72, Maitree Vihar, Bhubaneswar
18. Sri Sanjib Kumar Tripathy, Ex-CEO, GEDCOL
19. Sri B. K. Mohapatra, representative of UCCI
20. Sri R. N. Nayak, Ex-CMD, PGCIL
21. Prof. A. K. Tripathy, Former DG, CPRI, Kanan Vihar, Bhubaneswar
22. Sri S.K. Mishra, CMD, OPTCL
23. Shri Trilochan Panda, MD, GRIDCO
24. Shri P.K. Mohapatra, M.D., OPGC
25. Shri A.K. Mohanty, Director (Operation), OHPC
26. Shri M. Shenbagam, CEO, TPCODL
27. Shri Arvind Singh, CEO, TPSODL
28. Shri Gajanan S. Kale, CEO, TPWODL
29. Shri Bhaskar Sarkar, CEO, TPNODL

INTRODUCTORY:

The Commission convened the 33rd State Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting on 15.03.2023 at 11:00 A.M. in the Conference Hall of OERC. Shri Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Chairperson, Shri Gajendra Mohapatra, Member and Shri S.K. Ray Mohapatra, Member were

present on the occasion. SAC members, senior officials of OERC, GRIDCO/OPTCL/OPGC/OHPC and CEO's of the DISCOMs attended the meeting. The agenda items for discussion are listed below: -

1. Discussion of ARR & Tariff proposals for FY 2023-24
2. Any other matter, with permission of the Chair

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS:

Agenda No.1 – Discussion of ARR & Tariff proposals for FY 2023-24

Secretary, OERC welcomed all SAC Members and presented the agenda items. He introduced Sri S.C. Mahapatra, the new Chairperson of the Commission to the SAC members, who attended his first SAC meeting after joining as Chairperson of the Commission. Sri Mahapatra is the first Chief Secretary of the State who adorned the post of Chairperson, OERC. Secretary, OERC also mentioned that twelve new members of SAC have joined the meeting and requested to allow the leave of Sri N.N. Mishra, Member SAC. The Chairperson, OERC chaired the proceedings.

The World Institute of Sustainable Energy (WISE), Pune, the consumer counsel briefed the ARR & Tariff proposals for FY 2023-24 of all the Licensees (Transmission licensee: OPTCL; 4 Distribution Licensees: TPCODL, TPNODL, TPWODL, TPSODL; Trading Licensee: GRIDCO) and generating companies:(OHPC & OPGC) through Powerpoint Presentation and highlighted the salient points of the ARR, tariff rationalisation methods of DISCOMs and other important issues mentioned in the Petitions filed by Licensees and generating companies.

Thereafter, the members gave their comments / suggestions, which are summarised below.

1. Shri Girish Chandra Mohapatra said that State Government should provide subsidy to MSME industries operating at higher load. As Tata Company is providing electricity throughout the State, appropriate measures may be taken so that it should not have monopoly. He suggested to set up more numbers of GRF / Ombudsman offices and also requested to appoint counsel for consumers. Further, he mentioned about problem of land acquisition for erection of towers, transmission/distribution lines and installation of substations, where few landowners are not interested to handover their valuable lands. He requested that adequate compensation should be given to people who lost their land and the compensation may be 2 to 3 times of market price.
2. Shri Shiba Dutta Bhanja said that to meet the revenue gap new avenues can be explored by the Licensees. He mentioned about Odisha Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR), 2022 and

pointed out that appropriate regulatory framework and support may be given to drive sustainable industrial growth in the State. He suggested for a Coordination meeting with Industries Department in this regard. He mentioned that three agriculture based tariff categories are highly subsidized and suggested for reduction of cross-subsidy for allied agricultural category. He suggested that consumers should be given two options either for billing i.e. kVAh or kWh. He suggested that rate in kVAh should be same as rate in kWh multiplied by power factor, so that the consumers will not be at loss. Further, he mentioned that Licensees have proposed special category of tariff for consumers with contract demand more than 10 MVA. He enquired about actual numbers of consumers available in this category. The industries having load more than 2000 kVA can be recognised as power intensive industry and the benefit of special tariff can be extended to them. Further, he requested that the benefits should be given for a longer period, say five years.

3. Prof. Prakash Kumar Hota emphasised for introduction and implementation of latest technology. He also supported the recent initiative of installation of smart meters. He suggested that all the meters may be replaced by smart meter and the time of use tariff may be decided for those consumers. He also suggested for introduction of three types of tariffs i.e. normal, peak and off-peak tariff as per time of use to flatten the load curve. Further, he suggested that awareness programme should be organised in this regard to sensitise the consumers.
4. Shri P.K. Pradhan suggested for physical mode of meeting instead of meetings through virtual mode. He submitted that Hirakud Power house has never achieved the design energy of the plant. GRIDCO is not receiving the low cost power, for which it is purchasing high cost power from outside. There should be a discussion between GRIDCO, SLDC and OHPC regarding reduction in generation of low cost power. He further stated that Vedanta Aluminium should be operated as IPP and should not get linkage coal as a CGP. The generation cost will be very high, as the cost of coal has increased. A rebate of 25 to 35 paise in tariff may be allowed in EHT/HT tariff during 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. because of addition of solar generation in the State. Suitable peak & off-peak tariff may be decided accordingly. The employee cost suggested by DISCOMs is very high and is not acceptable because of adoption of technology & computerisation in each stage of operation. DISCOMs are not adhering to the Regulations framed by the Commission. DISCOMs are not following the billing cycle of thirty days and sometimes the consumers are even billed in less than thirty days, which is gross violation of the Regulations in force. He suggested that the HT loss which is considered as 8% should not be allowed and should be justified

by the licensees, if allowed. Government should give subsidy to LI consumers as it is not possible to cross-subsidize all the categories of consumers. The industrial consumers will opt for open access and DISCOMs will get less revenue if industrial tariff is not reduced. Only M/s Vedanta has opted to avail power under the tri-party agreement tariff (TPA tariff) proposed by TPWODL. GRIDCO may have surplus power of around 3000 MU, if M/s. Vedanta will not opt for the same. He expressed his concern that how GRIDCO can meet the SMD, as present overdrawal is not permitted under CERC DSM Regulations. Further, he mentioned that proposed O&M cost, particularly the employee cost proposed by the DISCOMs is too high. All the O&M works of DISCOMs have been outsourced. Hence, 1.4 employees per thousand consumers appears to be very high. The Licensees have proposed outsourced employee cost also. He opined that above 60% of the existing employee are sitting idle and outsourced staffs are managing the operations. He requested for prudent check of the cost effectiveness of the proposed expenditure. Since, huge investment had been made by the State Government for infrastructural development, he requested to reduce the loss at HT level to 4%. Licensees are recovering the demand charges without adherence to the provisions of the Regulations, for which they are earning about Rs.300 Crore of extra income. Licensees are installing smart meters, although the defective meters are still available in their system and yet to be replaced. He also expressed his concern about the fate of the newly installed static meters, which are to be replaced with smart meters and suggested for replacement of defective meters with smart meter in the first phase, followed by replacement of other meters. He also expressed his concern about the dispute in billing and non-redressal of the same by the licensee. He further opined that health insurance premium may be recovered through ARR and the same may be extended to the retired employees.

5. Shri Prabhakar Dora requested for adoption of more consumption – less the rate principle since Odisha is considered as a power surplus state. He submitted that a democratic manner of functioning, participation and acceptance of views of consumers play a pivotal role in success of any organisation. DISCOMs are not responding to the letters of SAC members on different issues and hence it is difficult for effective participation in the hearing without any response from DISCOMs. He requested for compliance of correspondences received from consumers by the licensees. He mentioned that neighbouring States like West Bengal is charging meter rent of Rs.10/-. So, the meter rent may be decided on the basis of life and cost of the meter. He expressed his concern about the collection of electricity bills by the lineman who is unable to explain the bills to the consumers. He requested for simplification of billing format and suggested for billing in

A4 size paper and also mentioned that the present bill is not readable after a certain period of time, due to its poor quality of printing. He requested for institutional strengthening of GRF and Ombudsman. He mentioned that although digital rebate has been introduced but consumers are not able to avail such benefit in remote areas particularly in TPSODL area due to unavailability power supply/network. He suggested for allowing the rebate even if the payment is made through the mode other than digital mode.

6. Shri Burle Balaraju requested for initiation of appropriate steps for early charging of R.Udayagiri substation. He also requested for reduction in agriculture tariff.
7. Shri Debabrata Pattanayak suggested for waiver of monthly minimum fixed charge for the industries during their closure periods in order to help them to re-open and start their production. He also requested for waiver of minimum fixed charges for industries. Therefore, he requested for instalment facility. He also suggested that the fine imposed for overdrawl may be abolished. DISCOMs are serving the electricity bills with huge dues suddenly after a long gap of 2 to 3 years and insisting for payment at one go. This type of practices should be stopped. Further, the consumers may not be penalised for drawl beyond the approved contract demand.
8. Shri Bidyadhar Mohanty said that the proposal of tariff hike may be decided on the basis of quality of service. The quality of service provided by the licensee is not up to the mark. He mentioned about the non-responsiveness of DISCOMs on the issues brought to their notice through correspondences. He also mentioned that there is language barrier between officials of DISCOMs and consumers. The officials of the present licensees are not able to understand and communicate in the Odia language which is the main reason for non-redressal of grievances. He strongly objected the proposal on tariff hike.
9. Shri Goura Chandra Panda mentioned about the need for proper maintenance of transformer. The tariff on consumers is high perhaps because of high transmission/distribution loss. Such loss is burdening the consumers. He suggested that there should be a benchmark of transformer level loss. Loss of each transformer should be monitored. He suggested for establishment of coordination committee associating SAC members to review the disputed bills, particularly the bills corresponding to the Covid period. He requested for establishment of dedicated industrial feeder, without any connections to other consumers from that feeder. He also requested for proper and simplified billing format. DISCOMs should frame estimates properly as per the provisions in Rules and Regulations.
10. Shri Surendra Prasad Mallick mentioned that there are about 97 lakh consumers in the

state of Odisha. He requested for sanitisation of consumer data base and introduction of KYC for all consumers to identify the actual consumers. He suggested for consumer indexing linking to DTs, metering in transformers, which will be helpful for DISCOMs for energy auditing. The consumers are not being informed about the power supply interruptions through messages. He suggested that arrear amount should not be considered while calculating the AT & C loss.

11. Smt. Saishree Pattnaik mentioned that in the last SAC meeting, Government representative said that lots of investment has been made by the State Government. Hence, the electricity tariff in Odisha may be reduced like Delhi and Gujarat. Further, the Disaster Fund may be created from the Government Fund. DISCOMs are not following the proper procedure while assessing under Section 126 /135 of the Electricity Act, 2003. Smt. Pattnaik, further said that reconnection charges proposed by DISCOMs, which are double of existing charges, should not be allowed. In case of disaster fund, she mentioned that such corpus fund should be created from Govt assistance. Further, she opined that the scheme of paying digitally and get six months payment back in case of any mishap is a good scheme proposed by DISCOM. She also supported the idea of creation of mega lift category under EHT consumer.
12. Smt. Abanti Behera requested the Commission to take decision protecting the interest of the general consumer of the State. She stated that the increase in tariff will not be helpful to decrease the loss. The loss can be reduced if the employees will work effectively and sincerely. She insisted for introspection of the employees. She said that during the last SAC Meeting held on 11.03.2022, the representative of the State Government had submitted about the huge investment made by the State Government in infrastructure development of DISCOMs. Considering the same, the Commission may not increase the tariff for the FY 2023-24. Further, she said that the tariff may be decreased instead of increase like Gujrat and New Delhi. She said that the DISCOMs are not following the proper procedure while assessing the consumers under section 126 and 135 of the Electricity Act.
13. Shri Alekh Chandra Mallik mentioned that about 900 MU surplus power available with GRIDCO. He said that outage was observed during rainy season for few hydro projects. Sri Mallik suggested that proper outage Management System should be in place for reliable operating of the system. He mentioned that IPPs, ready for operation are not getting coal for operation. So, high-cost power purchase from exchange was required to meet the demand of the State. He suggested for procurement of power from CGPs. He

mentioned that PPAs were signed with NTPC long back. The energy charge mentioned in the PPA is found to have increased significantly after commissioning of the projects (say, initially Rs 2.15/kWh to current level of Rs 6/kWh). He suggested that an escalation factor can be considered in this regard, which may be based on RBI index only. He pointed out that earlier cost of CTU was lower, approx. 13 P/U. He mentioned that Central thermal project (DSTPS) can be connected through STU network instead of CTU network. He suggested for provision of portable/mobile sub-station (by OPTCL), which can be utilised during post disaster period. He said that there are opportunities to develop Small Hydro Project (SHP), in downstream of Machhakund. He also mentioned about development of pump storage project which is required from the perspective of energy security.

14. Shri Bimal Das mentioned that level of quality of power supply has not increased upto the desired level. He mentioned about the improper location and poor infrastructural facilities available to GRF, Bhubaneswar and also suggested for no tariff rise for FY 2023-24.
15. Shri Bibhu Charan Swain opposed the revision of Triparty Agreement (TPA) tariff (from Rs 4.75/kVAh to Rs 5.25/kVAh) proposed by GRIDCO. He said that commitment charges proposed by GRIDCO is not as per Regulations and shortfall of RPO of previous years has not been considered by GRIDCO. He mentioned about Odisha RE Policy, 2022 and submitted that to meet the target given in RE policy, RE projects inside the State should be promoted, which will lead to significant direct and indirect employment. As per the RE Policy, several Regulations are required to be framed. He requested to decide the trading margin of GRIDCO so that GRIDCO can supply RE power to industries and suggested for biomass blending in OPGC thermal project. The generating units of OHPC were not operational during the last summer months and hence, he requested that directions should be given to OHPC not to undertake any kind of maintenance activity during the summer period of this year. He pointed out that several clauses of the newly introduced OERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Wheeling Tariff and Retail Supply Tariff) Regulations have not been followed by the DISCOMs while submitting the petitions. He opined that penal charges (1% to 2%) may be imposed in coming years for non-submission of petitions in proper manner. Tata Power managed DISCOMs have earned a profit of almost Rs.1.00 per Unit during FY 2021-22 and as per Retail Supply Tariff Regulations, tariff is to be reduced progressively and one-third of the profit is to be passed on to consumers. He mentioned about huge employee cost proposed by the DISCOMs. He said that in earlier era (managed by Reliance), salary of top executives was borne by Reliance. He suggested that salary of present top management of DISCOMs can be benchmarked as per OPGC, OHPC or erstwhile CESU. The same may be allowed in tariff and remaining

can be borne by its parent, TATA company. He also suggested that the expenses of earlier period may be taken as base instead of expenses incurred during FY 2021-22. He requested for prudent check of A&G cost. He suggested that the proposal for creation of Centre of excellence of OPTCL may be used for training, policy research etc. The Centre can be developed in PPP mode on self-sustaining basis. He also suggested that Skill Development Centre can be promoted by DISCOMs at division level, involving local MSME industries, who can be engaged in meter installation process. He requested that cold storage (who are operating in 2 degree centigrade environment) can be given allied agricultural status and suitable order in this regard may be passed by the Commission. He further mentioned that standard design may be published by OPTCL/ DISCOM so that local MSME can manufacture the same and supply to them. He suggested that for proposal of enhancement of fixed charges for HT medium industry should not be allowed. He also said that special incentive, as applicable to steel industries, may also be extended to other industries. He requested that DSM initiatives should be undertaken as per DSM Regulations.

16. Shri Bimal Kumar Mishra suggested for consumer indexation. This will also help for energy auditing and maintain optimum loading on the transformers. He mentioned about the improper billing and therefore suggested to cross-check it with the number of valid consumers. He said about disconnection threat of DISCOMs and narrated some incidents in this regard. He opined that meter replacement is conducted very erratically and so the same should be done in a systematic manner, starting with replacement of defective meters. In case of solar net metering, he suggested for installation of smart net meter. He congratulated the Commission for finalising the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for installation of solar net metering which will benefit the consumers. He submitted for appointment of Odia speaking people by DISCOMs at consumer interface points to avoid any kind of communication gap.
17. Shri Sanjib Kumar Tripathy pointed out about the increase in cost of power purchased from outside. Procurement of high-cost power from NTPC may be reduced. He said that RPO obligation should be fulfilled for FY 2023-24. He suggested that DISCOMs should procure and install smart net meters. DISCOMs should not change meter in regular interval. He also opined that consumer should have right to select the vendor for installation of solar PV plant. He suggested that DISCOMs must appraise the Commission about AT&C loss reduction in regular interval. DISCOMs should also submit Division-wise losses. He also said that OHPC should achieve the design energy of its plants. He

suggested for reduction of procurement cost of OPGC power.

18. Sri B. K. Mohapatra, representative of UCCI pointed out that RoE has been claimed by the licensees irrespective of their performance. He submitted that standard losses should be allowed. He also pointed out that regular monitoring of DISCOMs is required and they should follow the Rules and Regulations. To strictly monitor the purchase of power by GRIDCO, he suggested for constitution of a Committee. He mentioned that meter is an integral part in the electricity business like gas and telecom business, however, meter installation and its rent is becoming almost a new business for the DISCOMs. He suggested for addition of 1 P/U or 2 P/U in tariff instead of charging the monthly meter rent. He pointed out that Monitoring Committees established earlier by the Commission, had considered 4 areas of DISCOM and the desired loss level was achieved on adoption of various measures. He suggested for consumer – licensee interaction meetings, where junior officials of licensee can meet the consumers to address their grievances. He expressed concern about the poor participation of consumers in the tariff hearings.
19. Shri R. N. Nayak discussed about the installation of smart meters in the system. More structured ToD tariff is required to flatten the load curve. He mentioned that present level of ToD tariff is very low, so the same may be increased. However, suitable incentive / penalty mechanism may be introduced. Further, he mentioned about the generation of harmonics by steel and Aluminium Industries. Harmonic measurement may be required for those industries. The industries generating harmonics and injecting to the system may be penalized. He mentioned that GRIDCO is a loss making entity and as understood, loosing 7 p/u on each unit of transaction. Therefore, a proper planning is necessary for its sustainability. Further he submitted that the pump storage project is highly essential because of large scale integration of RE power in the near future.
20. Prof. Ashok Kumar Tripathy said that R&D activity and standardization of elements at OPTCL / GRIDCO should be initiated. He mentioned that although the installed capacity is huge but availability is low. He suggested that special committee can be constituted to see the availability vis-a-vis demand. He mentioned that co-ordination between GRIDCO, CGPs and Generating Companies is required for better understanding of the power availability to avoid procurement of costly power from Central sector. This can be a win-win situation for all. He also insisted for proper Asset Management.
21. Smt. Lipsa Das, Additional Secretary, Department of Energy, GoO mentioned that the Retail supply tariff should not be increased, rather it may be decreased. She pointed out that Government has already made huge investment in infrastructural development of the

licensees to reduce the burden on the consumers of the State. She further suggested for reduction of tariff for cold storage and drinking water schemes.

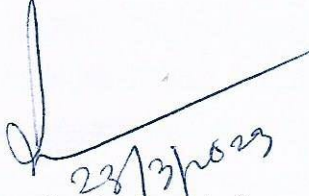
22. Sri S.K. Mishra, CMD, OPTCL in response to the submission of the stake holders said that land compensation is being provided to the affected parties in line with the Order of the State Government on the bench mark cost. On the issue of development of Power Training Centre, he mentioned that the same has been approved by the Board of Directors. OPTCL will explore the possibilities of development of Centre of excellence through PPP mode. Further, he mentioned that various approved design of tower structure (except 400 kV) is uploaded in OPTCL website and registered users can obtain the same for their reference. He also pointed out that design of tower structure including civil foundation designs are available in the website. He mentioned that OPTCL has established the OPTCL Chair at IIT Bhubaneswar to accelerate the collaborative effort for addressing various issues pertaining to Odisha Power sector comprising of all the three arms including Generation, Transmission and Distribution. The Chair will be responsible for building a Dynamic Industry-Institute Interface System to keep track of the industry requirement in the power sector in Odisha. OPTCL is taking all steps for introduction/implementation of new technology in the State Transmission System.
23. Sri Trilochan Panda, MD, GRIDCO mentioned that situation of procurement of power vis-à-vis the requirement of the State is being regularly reviewed. The growth of electricity consumption was low during Covid period, which has increased afterwards. He mentioned that peak demand of the State is around 4800 MW and average power procurement cost is the lowest in Odisha and so also the average cost of supply, except few Union Territories. He mentioned that average billing rate is also lowest in the country. He pointed out that the reason for rise in power purchase cost in the current year and next year is due to addition of new thermal plants having higher fixed cost and retirement of old asset like TTPS. Although the RE penetration has increased, but it cannot supply RTC power, hence there is requirement of blending with RTC power. There is a requirement of procurement of costly power to meet the additional demand. He mentioned that due to shortage of coal, NTPC started blending of imported coal during last year, which has increased the cost of power procurement. However, no imported coal was used by the State Thermal projects. There is a proposal of dual connectivity (STU and CTU) in case of the upcoming NLC and TTPS projects and hence no ISTS charge would be applicable. OHPC has identified three pump storage projects and will be developed shortly. Board of Directors are being informed about the issues and concerns of DISCOMs with reference to Power purchase and taking appropriate steps accordingly. Discussion with IPPs/CGPs are going on to meet the

demand requirement during summer month. GRIDCO will approach the Commission to accord necessary approval in this regard. GRIDCO is carrying out the procurement planning taking the contingency factor in to consideration. Odisha is one of the five states where pilot study on redundancy has been conducted and the result shows that the incremental cost would be of 5-6 P/U for 11%-12% redundancy.

24. Sri A.K. Mohanty, Director (O), OHPC discussed about the maintenance schedule of different hydro projects and post maintenance status of availability of the units. He mentioned about planning of pump storage projects in the State and informed about the steps being taken till now by OHPC in this regard. He said that although machines are available but the generation from hydro project is dependent on rainfall and water availability. He mentioned that CBIP was engaged for technical audit of power projects and the report has been submitted with some good suggestions. The annual maintenance schedule of OHPC plants is regularly planned and prepared in consultation with GRIDCO/SLDC.
25. Sri P.K. Mohapatra, MD, OPGC pointed out that availability of Thermal Power was more than 1700 MW during March-June 2022 period, except April, when one unit was not available due to some problem. No maintenance has been planned during the period from February to July. He said that PLF of OPGC has increased. He mentioned that biomass is not usages in thermal power plants of Odisha at present due to inadequate availability of such material, although the usage is prevalent in Punjab and Haryana. However, a study is being conducted and the result will be available in next two-three months. He mentioned that current age of Stage-I is 29 years and R&M of Stage-I is envisaged in 2026 for further extension of life of the plant for about next 15 years. He said that ECR of OPGC Unit III & IV is lowest in the country. He also submitted that OPGC has ensured coal availability and maintained 15 days' stock and have not used imported coal so far.
26. Shri Shenbagam Manthiram, CEO, TPCODL explained about various initiatives undertaken by them. He mentioned that power supply interruption in terms of SAIDI has been reduced. Failure rate of DT has also been reduced to 2.9%. He further submitted that the employee cost has been increased due to addition of new sub-stations in the system. He submitted about the completion of 100% mapping of 33 kV assets and 80% of consumer indexing. Vidyut Seva Kendra for rural consumers have been developed. They have also developed a system through which a lineman gets instantaneous information of any fault for its speedy rectification. He mentioned about status of solar net metering projects (installed capacity 3.3 MW) and pointed out about various steps being taken for

installation of solar net metering. He also mentioned that installation of smart net metering has been started. 17 nos. of vendors have been registered for installation of roof top solar system of the consumers. TPCODL in the meantime has replaced about 5.6 lakh defective meters and 2.8 lakh mechanical meters. TPCODL is installing about 400 meters per day. He submitted that AT&C loss level has been reduced from 30.4% to 22.5%. With respect to employee ratio of 1.4 for thousand consumers, he mentioned that private distribution companies in the country are having the ratio near to 1.8 and the same is dependent on geography of operational area & the available infrastructure. TPCODL is responding to the letters of stakeholders in time. On the issue on size of the bill, he mentioned that in case of spot billing, the size of the bill is dependant on the specification of the printer. However, the same can be downloaded from their website in A4 size paper and is available in both Odia & English. The spot billing in Odia have also been started. The payment of bill in two or more numbers of instalments is not an issue as long as the consumer pays the bill. He pointed out that TPCODL is collecting meter rent as per prevailing approved rate only.

27. Shri Arvind Singh, CEO, TPSODL submitted that the consumer indexing of 9 lakh consumers has been completed and rest will be completed soon.
28. Shri Gajanan S. Kale, CEO, TPWODL said that safety of the customer, employee and others is of utmost important. He mentioned that call centre has been operational and various digital initiatives have been introduced for redressal of consumer complaints. He pointed out the reasons for requirement of additional expenses during FY 2023-24.
29. Shri Bhaskar Sarkar, CEO, TPNODL mentioned about the availability of facility for onsite overhauling of transformers and use of drone technology for location of the hot spots for ease of maintenance. He pointed out that AT&C loss was close to 23% in the last year and they are hopeful to meet the target given by Commission for different years.
30. Shri Priyabrata Patnaik, Secretary, OERC concluded the meeting with vote of thanks to the members of SAC and all other participants.


(Suresh Chandra Mahapatra)
Chairperson