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Appointment of Consumer Counsel by OERC

In exercise of the powers vested in the Commission under Section 94(3) of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Commission intend to engage Consumer Counsel(s) to represent the interest of the consumers during the process of finalization of ARR & Retail Supply Tariff determination of the Distribution Licensees for the FY 2025-26. The guidelines for engagement of Consumer Counsel(s) is available in the OERC website (www.orienc.org). Interested person/ institution/ association must submit their details such as name, complete address, email id, Mobile number and the name of the Distribution Licensee for which they are interested to be appointed as Consumer Counsel including their expertise in the field, to the Secretary, OERC on or before 12th January, 2025. The Commission will select one person per DISCOM to act as Consumer Counsel. The tariff fillings of the Distribution Licensees of the state, TPCODL, TPNODL, TPSODL and TPWODL for the FY 2025-26 is available in the website for reference. The final list of persons/ institutions/ associations finalized as Consumer Counsel(s) by the Commission shall be intimated and will also be available in the OERC website. The Commission reserves the right to cancel the advertisement without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-

SECRETARY

General Guidelines for Engagement of Consumer Counsel

In exercise of the powers vested in the Commission under Section 94(3) of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Commission hereby adopts the following guidelines for the appointment of Consumer Counsel(s) to represent the interest of consumers in the proceedings before it:

1. The main purpose and objective of engagement of a Consumer Counsel shall be to represent the interest of the consumers in the various proceedings of the Commission.
2. In such proceedings as the determination of tariff, power purchase agreements, investment Proposals/ Reviews/ Suo-motu proceedings/ Investigations/ Inquiries/ other important proceedings where the interest of the consumers in general are at stake, the Commission may in appropriate cases, engage any Consumer Counsel(s).
3. The Commission may engage any person/ institution/ association of persons, professional bodies as Consumer Counsel. One person/ institution/ association of persons shall be engaged for each DISCOM.
4. The persons/institutions/associations to be engaged as Consumer Counsel shall have expertise in the respective fields like Accountancy/ Engineering/ Law/ Management/ Economics etc or experience in or knowledge about Orissa Power Sector.
5. The Consumer Counsel should not have any affiliation or attachment with any Licensee(s) or Generating Company(ies) or with their Holding Company(ies) or with any party(ies) to the proceedings.
6. The Commission shall make available the relevant documents related to the proceedings to the Consumer Counsel for study and use.
7. The Consumer Counsel shall analyse and may prepare its initial report in a neutral and objective manner and furnish the same to the Commission within the specified time limit.

8. The Consumer Counsel shall be allowed to participate in the proceedings before the Commission to put forth his/its views. The consumer counsel shall submit his report only to the Commission after the hearing for consideration of the Commission in the Tariff Order.
9. If an individual is appointed as a Consumer Counsel, he/she shall be a duly qualified professional having adequate experience in his/her discipline, preferably in the Orissa power sector.
10. The Commission may not be able to fully compensate the Consumer Counsel for the assignments. However, it will endeavor to ensure that the Counsel is not spending any amount from his pocket. The Commission intends to reimburse such expenses as TA & DA, as per actual to one person only on the basis of norms of the Commission. Reasonable incidental charges like photocopying shall be paid extra.
11. Generally, the Commission will adopt a transparent and pragmatic procedure for engagement of Consumer Counsel. But in the public interest, by recording the reasons in writing, the Commission may appoint any reputed institute/ organization/ professional body as Consumer Counsel for a specific purpose and for a limited period.
12. The Commission may, terminate the engagement/ assignment of any Consumer Counsel at any time if in the opinion of the Commission, continuance of the Counsel is not conducive and prejudicial to public interest.

The Commission from time to time may amend/modify the above guideline as deems fit without any prior notice.

By Order

Sd/-

SECRETARY