



Public Notice - suggestions- demands-reg.

1 message

Arcotrajmohan Raja <arcotgraj@yahoo.com> Sat, Jan 6, 2024 at 7:22 PM
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A.P. UNITED CITIZENS FORUM (Anantapur)

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To

The Secretary,

A.P. Electricity Regulatory Commission,

4th Floor, Singareni Bhavan,

Red Hills,

Hyderabad – 500004.

Sir,

With reference to the Public Notice dated 10th December, 2023, inviting views, objections, suggestions and proposals we submit the following for your consideration.

1. While welcoming the proposed Public Hearings from 29th Jan, to 31st Jan,2024 with likelihood of extending it for a day, based on necessity we suggest a separate Hearing for MYT on the subsequent day or any other day that suits the Commission.
2. The absence of proposal from DISCOM for any tariff hike for the 5th control period is welcome. But the Revenue Gap projected by DISCOMS amounting to R.13,887.28 crore should be bridged by Government subsidy and not by mounting the same on the consumers.
3. An amount of Rs. 0.40 per Unit is already collected from the consumers under FPPCA. This is done without holding Public Hearing on the subject. The amount collected should be returned by adjusting the same in the ensuing Bills. Besides FPPCA I, II, True Up charge is also levied from consumers. This should also be returned at the earliest. The amount paid to HNPCL is likely to be imposed on the consumers as yet another True Up charge, besides likely claims of further revenue gaps, which for no reason the Commission should permit.
4. Planning and projection of power generation, supply, sale of surplus power, its cost, fixing the cost of power purchased from private players and other projections for short term purchases at variable costs may be done in a more professional way to avoid taxing the consumers for the faults of the concerned departments.
5. We expect the Commission to ensure that there will be no more impositions of FPPCAs and TRUE Ups on the consumers for none of their faults.
6. The Commission should, in stern terms, ensure provisions for payment of subsidies and other dues, with interest for delayed payment, by Government. Strict measures are taken against ordinary consumers when the payment is not made in time. But when the Government fails to make payment in time instead of disconnecting supply and collecting penalty the burden is passed on to the innocent consumers. Interest on loan availed for Working Capital should be paid by the Government and not to be levied from the consumers.

7. Arrears above Rs.50,000 shown as arrears from consumers is not explained. A part of it may be due to cases pending in the court but the rest has no explanation.
8. It is suggested to hasten the entire Regulatory process as election may intervene any time by virtue of which further FPPCA and True Ups may be imposed on the consumers.
9. Our Forum is not in favour of switching over to Smart Meters. Consumers have no issue with the existing meters. Therefore there is no need for fixing new meters. It looks there is plan to impose this unnecessarily on the consumers, who may have to keep paying the cost of the meters for years. When Consumers pay for the meters where is the need to show a huge amount for procuring Smart Meter under capital expenditure? The entire activities devised under Smart Meter programme aim at favouring the private players at the cost of consumers. Therefore this plan should be scrapped at once.
10. It is observed that only two companies have participated in the bidding for providing Smart Meters and among them one company has not evinced interest in the further processing of bidding leaving the whole process to one company. The reason behind this is worth probing.
11. Our Forum is not in favour of Direct Benefit Transfer plan.
12. The Pre-Paid tariff plan is also designed to favour private players who can earn without investment or availing huge loans. The existing system of paying after consumption has no hurdle to consumers. Consumer is given 14 days time to pay his Bill and if payment is not made there is provision to disconnect service and reconnect after collecting due charges. This system is functioning well and consumers are also happy with this. There is no need to switch over to pre-paid system by which consumers are not going to have any extra benefit except facing extra hurdles.
13. Purchase of power from private companies need a thorough study to make the entire process more transparent and the details may be placed in public domine for the consumers to understand the system and respond accordingly.
14. We request the Hon'ble Commission to provide opportunity to our Forum to participate in public hearing on the subject issues of all the three DISCOMs.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(General Secretary)

(President)

Anantapur,

07-01-2024.