

**Minutes of Meeting  
of  
Coordination meeting chaired by Shri.D.D.Bhutia, Hon'ble Minister(Energy &  
Power and Labour Department) at Power Secretariat on 19/10/2016**

Agenda-wise minutes of the meeting are as follows;

**Agenda item No.1:** *Status Report/Progress of ongoing/pending major works of Sherathang, Tadong,LLHP, etc.*

- (a) **Construction of 132KV transmission line from LLHP to Nathula in Sikkim:** CE(HQ) reported that sub-station work at Sherathang is complete with only testing and commissioning pending. All problem in the line has been resolved except the one at Nandok. All pending issues will be resolved and work will be completed by March 2017.
- (b) **Drawing of New 66 kV D/C transmission line from LLHP to Tadong 66/11 kV Sub-Station:** ACE(EHV/RE/SLDC) reported that alignment of the line had to be revised due to non-availability of land. Work along the new alignment along the riverbed is underway and out of 28 locations, 24 locations have been cleared. 20 towers have been erected. In 3 locations, the land owners are refusing to part with the land.If there is no favourable progress in this matter, suitable steps to be taken up for acquiring the land through legal means utilizing the services of district administration since the work is for greater public interest. CE(EHV/RE/SLDC) stated that stringing works for all towers (apart from 3 disputed locations) shall be completed by December/January and entire work will be completed by March 2017.
- (c) **Construction of 66/11KV, 2x5MVA sub-station at Perbing, Ranka, East Sikkim including drawing of 11 kV H.T. transmission lines for power evacuation & other allied electrical works in and around Gangtok in East Sikkim:** SE(HQ-III/IV) reported that the contractor has committed to complete the switchyard and control room by December 2016. The 66 kV LILO line is being delayed owing to reluctance of the land owners to part with the land despite exploring all options. Some land owners are refusing monetary compensation and instead demanding replacement land in another location and even government service for allowing their land to be used for the project. It has been directed to expedite negotiation with landowners and ensure completion of the project within March 2017. It has also been decided that demand for replacement land and government service in lieu of land cannot be considered. Only monetary compensation is to be considered. Possibility of temporary appointment in IPPs like Teesta Urja could be explored. If all else fails, suitable steps to be taken up for acquiring the land through legal means utilizing the services of district administration since the work is for greater public interest. No further time extension to be

allowed.CE(EHV/RE/SLDC) also expressed the need to explore possibility of sharing transmission towers with proposed PGCIL project in the vicinityutilizing multi-circuit towers.

- (d) Drawing of 66 kV transmission line including construction of 2x7.5 MVA Sub-Station at Marchak, East Sikkim:** ACE(L/R) reported that 66 kV LILCO construction work is being held up at Marchak owing to reluctance of one land owner to part with his land for erection of one 66 kV transmission tower. Out of 4 locations, 3 locations have been resolved barring one location. The land owner is demanding replacement land or a compensation amount of very high value. Even here, only monetary compensation as per government norms to be considered and if necessary, suitable steps to be taken up for acquiring the land through legal means utilizing the services of district administration since the work is for greater public interest. It was directed that the matter be resolved and work be completed by March 2017. Report on progress of dispute resolution to be furnished within one month.
- (e) 66 kV transmission and sub-station work under APDRP:**SE(South) reported that the Government desires that 2x5 MVA sub-station at Jorethang and Sombaria and associated 66 kV transmission lines be completed. There are no issues at Sombaria. However at Rothak, even though tower erection has been completed, compensation has not been provided to the land owners. Work can be commenced only after distribution of compensation. There is ambiguity on what rate is to be adopted (new rate or old). It was directed that assessment pattern followed by EHV wing be adopted for South too. SE(South) to coordinate with ACE(EHV/RE/SLDC) in this regard.
- (f) LLHP renovation(PMRF work):** CE(Civil) reported that a team of officers is visiting the site on 20/10/2016 to assess the progress. HM(Power) directed that strict monitoring of work be done. Balance civil work to be completed within December. ACE(O&M/East) reported that the electrical portion of the project is ready and in proper condition. ACE(Mech) reported that there are no issues with work pertaining to Mechanical wing. It has been directed that after testing, commissioning work in the intervening period, commercial operation of the power house to be started in 1st week of March 2017. All balance work to be completed scheduled and completed accordingly.
- (g) Issues discussed with Secretary(LR&DM Deptt.) and District Collector(East):** The officers were appraised of the hindrances facing the department during project implementation owing to difficulty in acquiring land and right of way for transmission line. The issue of unrealistic compensatory demand of land owners and also blank refusal by some to part with the land thereby jeopardizing the entire project was also placed.SE(EHV/RE/SLDC) apprised the meeting about lack of vertical clearance of LLHP-Tadong 66 kV line from residential buildings at several locations and the need for a joint inspection of such areas.

CE(EHV/RE/SLDC)informed the house that Chief Secretary has already been informed about the issue i.e. lack of prescribed allowable clearance of houses and tress/bamboos from overhead electricity lines across the state and that his office has been requested to intervene in the matter.

- The District Collector observed that if negotiated settlement was not feasible, the government could exercise the option of forcible acquisition as per current laws. This would however be a long drawn-out process and could take up to 2 years owing to various formalities involved.
- For any hurdles in land acquisition during project implementation and clearing of trees and bamboos for transmission line, right of way, assistance of district administration to be sought on a case to case basis. District Collector(East) has assured the Hon'ble Minister of his cooperation in this regard.
- Secretary(LR&DM Deptt.) explained the intricacies of the new act i.e. Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (LARR) and the new compensation formula as per the act.
- He further stressed upon the need to maintain proper documentation of all landed properties of the department in order to avoid complications like dispute in ownership at a later date.
- Notification for implementation of new rules in the state for acquisition of land for transmission line as per central government notification has to be initiated by the Energy & Power Department since it is the concerned line department.

**Agenda item No.2:** *All officers of Circles and Divisions to keep their cell phone/mobile on all the times so that officers and consumers can communicate to them during power failure.*

- It was strictly directed that all officers of the department are to ensure that individual mobiles phones are not switched off.
- The officers concerned should respond to all incoming calls.
- The department will need to devise suitable ways to ensure flow of information to public regarding power outages and other issues of public interest pertaining to Energy & Power Department.
- All planned outages and long power shutdowns to be widely publicized through local media like Nayuma Television and through relevant social networking sites.
- Whatsapp group to be formed in all districts and prominent citizens, district administration to be included in the group for rapid dissemination of information.
- SE(South) informed the meeting such arrangement is already in place in South district. SE(North) informed that North District has same arrangement in place too.

- West District and East District (HQ/LR/East) has been directed to replicate such system.
- CE(EHV/RE/SLDC) informed that SLDC control room at DPH complex, Gangtoki is functional and is manned 24x7. All line faults/other problems pertaining to 132 kV/66 kV lines across the state to be reported to this control room. The telephone number of SLDC control room has been shared as (03592) 209635.

**Agenda item No.3:** *Quality of work should not be compromised at all times.*

- For all ongoing projects and schemes handled by the department, quality of materials and workmanship is to be strictly maintained.
- Field officers (JEs/AEs/EEs) to be present at site to monitor quality and progress of work and inspection by senior officers on regular basis mandatory.
- Site order book to be compulsorily maintained at site by the field officer as per PWD code and manual.
- Recently tendered projects; where the contractor has bid below the PAR rate and has won the contract; to be strictly monitored to prevent any compromise on work quality. Officers to be posted at site for constant supervision during project execution.
- Material inventory for these projects to be prepared and submitted to HM(Power) and spot checking to be done.
- SE(East-II) and SE(Pakyong/Rongli) informed that all measures are being taken to ensure quality work in these schemes.
- Only energy efficient BEE Star Rated transformers to be used.
- SE(O&M/East) to initiate process for notification of latest GOI stipulated Energy Efficiency Level Stipulations.

**Agenda item No.4:** *All officers to maintain and check attendance of their staffs on regular basis.*

- Attendance of office staff to be strictly monitored by respective controlling officers.
- Special Secretary(Adm) mentioned that several offices have not maintained attendance registers.
- List of staff under every controlling officer to be submitted to Special Secretary(Adm) for validation and to verify that all staff of the department are reporting for duty.
- Director(Accounts) informed of a case where a salary of a supervisor grade staff posted in North Sikkim was disbursed for some months even after his demise owing to lapse in timely reporting of death. CE(Civil) has been instructed to look into the case and put up report.
- ACE(Mech) has been directed to submit proposal for Human Resource Management Software package so that implementation of the same could be achieved by December 2016.

- It was suggested that unique identification number in the database could be considered as follows; Regular staff – GPF Number, Work Charge – Adhaar card Number, Muster Roll- DESME code.
- Special Secretary(Adm) informed that leave applications and joining reports of staff are not reaching administrative wing. All offices to ensure such applications and reports are not misplaced and are forwarded at administrative wing without fail in a timely manner.
- HM(Power) has directed that henceforth no officer or staff should proceed on leave unless formal sanction from the designated authority has been received beforehand.

**Agenda item No.5:** *Excess staff, if any has to be removed and reposted at required places.*

- Redeployment and optimization of staff within the department to be urgently carried out.
- Suitable ladies staff who can be spared from office to be posted as meter readers.
- Suitable young male staff who can be spared from office to be used in maintenance duty after proper training.
- CE(Civil) and ACE(Mechanical) to identify and submit list of staff who can be spared for redeployment within one week.
- No proposal for extension of service to be processed.
- In future appointments for line staff, ITI pass certificate to be made mandatory.
- Current qualification requirement for line staff of Class VIII (eighth standard) to be revised accordingly.

**Agenda item No.6:** Revenue realization/collection figures to be updated periodically.

- Assistant Nodal Officer(Revenue) reported the collection trend for the current year is higher than during the comparative period of last year.
- Requirement for meter security seal urgent and proposal of Rs.11.50 Lakh to be resubmitted immediately for sanction and procurement of meter security seal.
- Assistant Nodal Officer(Revenue) reported that about 18,000/- new meters costing about Rs.2.52 crore required for completing 100% metering in the state.
- Assistant Nodal Officer(Revenue) reported that subsidy demand of Rs.8.14 crore for last financial year has not seen any positive consideration from the govt. owing to procedural issue. Department to write to FRED seeking waiver from having to submit certification of arrear from the user departments. It was found that getting such certification has proven to be difficult owing to the fact that the arrears are not all new arrears.
- Assistant Nodal Officer(Revenue) reported that arrear of Rs.25.46 crore of non-residential buildings is yet to be realised. Owing to the non-payment of such arrears by the concerned consumers, AT&C loss reduction from current level will be difficult.

- Government approval to be sought to disconnect service connection of defaulting government departments. Proposal for the same to be initiated immediately.
- Flying squads for detection of thefts and other revenue related lapses to start operation immediately after Diwali.
- Remote metering deadline of September 2016 has been missed owing to non-submission of required information by circles. SE(South), SE(East-II) and SE(Pakyong/Rongli) have committed to complete the required ground work and submit the necessary information to CE(EHV/RE/SLDC) by end of October 2016. ACE(L/R) and SE(East-I) have said necessary work in their circle already completed and everything will be ready by end of October 2016.
- HM(Power) underlined that no electricity connection to be allowed without meter. The department to install meter. The consumer to also be given option of installing meter as per norms.
- Nodal Officer(Revenue) reported that data for ARO yet to be received. All circles urged to submit the required data urgently.

**Agenda item No.7:** Pending reconciliation with BSNL and realization of dues to be appraised.

- Assistant Nodal Officer(Revenue) reported that BSNL had been given time up to 31<sup>st</sup> October for clearing the arrear. BSNL wants separation of principal arrear amount and surcharge components. Such statement is being prepared but the work has been hampered owing to non-submission of such details by some circles. It was also reported that BSNL wants waiver on surcharge component.
- It was directed that BSNL should be asked to clear their dues immediately.

**Agenda item No.8:** To stop undue time extension of ongoing contract work.

- No time extension for ongoing works to be entertained.

**Agenda item No.9:** Practice of carrying official files by unauthorized persons other than concerned staff and peon of the department should be stopped immediately. Strict action should be taken against the person handing over the files to the unauthorized persons in future.

- It has been directed that henceforth official files are not be handed over to unauthorized parties. Files to be strictly routed through file movement registers and only designated staffs are to handle files. Action to be taken against concerned officer/staff in case of any lapses in this regard.

**Agenda item No.10:** All officers may ensure files and official letters be disposed of within 24 hours.

- All officers to ensure disposal of files and official correspondences within 24 hours.HM(Power) has directed that official files and correspondences are not to be kept in abeyance for any reason. In case of any doubt, the file to be moved in a timely manner with appropriate note/comment to the next office.

**Agenda item No.11:** All staff and officers to strictly maintain lunch time between 1:00 pm and 1:30 pm only.

- It has been directed that lunch should be completed within the designated time between 1:00 pm and 1:30 pm.
- No staff/officer should be found to be eating lunch in office or be found out of office for lunch beyond the designated time.

**Agenda item No.12:** To remove all the trees and bamboos falling below transmission line.

- It has been decided to seek assistance of the concerned DC/ADC for such issues.

**Agenda item No.13:** Nodal Officers of IPDS/DDUGJY to report the status of the schemes.

- Nodal Officer(IPDS) has reported that an agreement is to be signed before availing of IPDS scheme from Govt. of India. A draft agreement has been received from Power Finance Corporation in this regard.
- Nodal Officer(DDUGJY) reported that proposal amounting to Rs.624 crore under DDUGJY has received techno-economic clearance. However, Govt.of India appointed Monitoring Committee has stated that this amount is currently not available. Rs.20 crore has been approved for Sikkim and the estimate as submitted needs to be recasted.
- Ministry of Power, GoI, has been approached for review.
- Executive Director(REC) expected to visit Sikkim on 24<sup>th</sup> of October and the matter to be discussed during the visit.
- Nodal Officer(DDUGJY) also explained that signing of UDAI is compulsory for all electrical utilities without which there would be no more funding from Central Govt. A draft bi-partite has been made ready for submission for obtaining Govt.approval. Director(Accounts) has been entrusted with this work.
- Also it was informed that scheme called UrjaMitra has been initiated by GoI to bring transperance. Through this scheme, mobile number and other such details of every consumer is to be mapped. It was reported that though information of consumers in Sikkim has been sought from all circles, the same is yet to be collected. HM(Power) has directed that everyone is to submit the required information immediately without fail.

**Agenda item No.14:** To provide status report of ongoing schemes under PGCIL and apprise whether PGCIL is strictly complying with MOU signed with the state government.

- A meeting with Executive Director, PGCIL is expected on 26<sup>th</sup> October to discuss the pending issues.
- HM(Power) has directed that terms of MoU must be strictly followed.

**Agenda item No.15:** Report regarding micro hydel projects under MNRE by concerned officers.

- It has been reported that proposal for scrapping of micro hydel projects has been forwarded to DPER&NECAD.
- PCE(II) is following up the matter.

**Agenda item No.16:** Report regarding deregistered/scrapped hydel projects.

- Matter regarding decommissioning to be put up to State Cabinet.
- Cabinet note in this regard to be made ready in 4 days time.

**Agenda item No.17:** Status report of arbitration case with ATPIL.

- Nodal Officer(IPDS) reported that arbitration case is currently in completion stage and final award is expected on 12/11/2016 at Gangtok

**Agenda item No.18:** Status report of ongoing power projects.

- Status report presented by Nodal Officer(IPDS). Out of 31 initial awards, MoUs for 24 projects signed and Lol for 7 issued. Out of 7, 4 of such projects with only Lolhas already been cancelled. 4 projects have been commissioned. Work at Jal Power and Lanco is currently stalled.
- Lancois requesting infusion of 51% equity from State Govt. CE(Civil) and CE(East) to constitute a team of officers and check the current status of these project with District Officials. Report to be submitted by end of October 2016.
- There has to be constant monitoring of quality andwork progress in case of hydel projects being developed by private developers (IPPs)so that actual status of the project is known to the government.
- All such committees constituted in the districts for the purpose to ensure that there are no lapses in monitoring and progress reports are to be submitted regularly.

**Agenda item No.19:** Illegal and temporary connection being used at cow shed and temporary huts without fulfilling official formalities may be disconnected immediately.

- Illegal electricity connections if any to be immediately identified and suitable action like disconnection and recovery of energy charges including legal proceedings etc. to be taken up without any delay.

**Agenda item No.20:** Unused electric pole and other obsolete electrical materials lying unused be disposed off/auctioned.



- All unserviceable assets like poles and other equipment that are lying around to be inventoried and disposed off/auctioned.
- Field officers to start this exercise immediately and dismantling of such assets to be completely within next 2 months.

**Agenda item No.21:** Any extra pipes/cable lines hanging on electrical poles should be removed immediately.

- All pipes, telephone and TV cable that have been placed and drawn unauthorized across the electricity pole to be removed immediately in order to prevent accidents.
- Action to be initiated immediately by field officers.

**Agenda item No.22:** Prior administrative approval has to be obtained for taking up any work even on emergency basis.

- No work to be undertaken with prior approval in future.

Beside the agenda items, the following issues were as discussed.

#### ***Consumer Dispute Redressal Issue***

- ACE(West) who is in charge of Consumer Dispute Redressal stated that all consumer complaints to be taken up seriously and all such complaints to be attended to within the prescribed time so that consumers do not face any harassment. There has to be some officer in each sub-division to receive complaints from the consumers and compliant register is to be maintained.
- A written response to the compliant is also to be provided to the complainant.
- Meter reader also to be asked to be fair and accurate in assessment of meter readings.

#### ***Status Report of Teesta Urja project***

- It was shared by PCE-cum-Secretary that 1200 MW project is the biggest single unit join venture project in the country.
- That first pressure shaft ready and 3 machines (6`00 MW) have already been rolled. Evacuation not possible yet due to land acquisition problem at Patukrequired for erection of one transmission line tower.
- That second pressure shaft is expected to be ready by Nov/Dec 2016.

The Hon'ble Minister concluded with the note that all the issues discussed in the meeting may be noted seriously and directions issued be abided by all the officials and staff of the department. All staff and officers to be apprised of the issues discussed and decisions taken in the meeting.