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### Draft amendments to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Distribution Code and Supply Code on Supply to Agricultural Category Draft Notification No. TNERC/DC/8 dated -05-2014 - TEGI Response (PART-3)

TNERC introduced amendments TEGI gave its comments to the draft regulations namely i.e. [Tamil Nadu Electricity Distribution Code and Supply Code on Supply to Agricultural Category - Draft Notification No. TNERC/DC/8 dated 05-2014](#).

It is hoped that TNERC will take the comments into consideration as the proposed draft amendments have serious implications on sustainable water resources management, agricultural land use, crop cultivation patterns, and, lastly, on the ability of the grid to take up the influx in energy load.

#### Suggested amendment

(e) The applicants for supply to the agriculture category may be permitted for name transfer and shifting of location of service connection even before effecting of supply. In case of shifting, the same may be permitted within the area of the distribution licensee. If there is more than one registration on the same date, the applicant seeking shifting of location of the service connection shall be placed last in the serial order on that date and seniority assigned accordingly. "

#### Comments

Transferring of name and facilitating shifting of location for agricultural service connection are efficient rules. This must be given more thrust for the following reasons

- a) Agriculture service connections are redistributed to places where it is most in demand – thus creating/promoting a market for trading of agricultural service connections.
- b) Reduces the number of applications for agriculture service connection, leading to efficient use of existing service connection in different locations.
- c) Reduction in service connections, leads to better management of water resources and land as farmers optimize existing connection for better crop production.
- d) This lessens the load and amount to energy consumed in the agriculture sector as it potentially limits the number of connections – another form of energy conservation

#### Suggestions for improving the rule and preventing illegal shifting of agriculture service connection

1. Shifting of agriculture service connection should not be placed in the same register as pending applications. This will prevent easy approval and disposal of files as it will create red-tape.
2. A separate register should be maintained along with a separate application format
3. Shifting of service connection must take into account water resources/energy load/land/extent of agriculture activity in a particular circle before arriving at the feasibility of name transfer
4. Name transfer/Shifting of agriculture connection, depending on the level of agricultural activity prevailing in the circle/division, must be evenly distributed and should not be concentrated in a single area causing over-use of land, water affecting cultivation.

(contd.)

## TN Electricity News

### Tamil Nadu's Kancheepuram District to Have 33 Sub-Stations During 12th Five Year Plan

Kancheepuram district, housing one of the largest industrial areas in Tamil Nadu, would have atleast 33 sub-stations by the end of the 12th five year plan, Electricity Minister Natham R Viswanathan informed the State Assembly today.

Kancheepuram was emerging as an industrial corridor and in need of uninterrupted power supply and it is planned that at least 33 sub stations should function in the area by the end of the 12th plan, he said in response to a query during the question hour. "Of the planned 33 sub stations, 16 have already been completed and started functioning, while the rest would be completed soon and function before the end of 12th five year plan," Mr Viswanathan said. He was replying to CPI (M)'s A Soundararajan, who raised the issue of frequent power cuts due to low voltage in Mahakavi Bharathiyar Nagar, Vyasarpadi and other areas in North Chennai.

However, acquiring lands for setting up power sub-stations in the state is becoming a challenge as locals protested the move in many places, Electricity Minister Natham R Viswanathan informed the Tamil Nadu Assembly today. Replying to a query during question hour, he said acquiring lands for setting up power sub-stations in many places was a problem since locals either objected against it and staged a protest or went to courts against government's move.

DMK's Govi Chezhan (Thiruvudaimarudur) said people in his constituency had identified an area for setting up a power sub-station and he was ready to allot funds from his constituency development fund. ([NDTV](#), 14 July, 2014) ([Business Standard](#), 14 July, 2014)

### Tamil Nadu—Consumer Friendly Measures

- Simplification of payment of electricity bills
- Agreements with 18 Banks
- Online collection of current consumption (CC) charges
- Payment through 2522 post offices & Urban Common
- Service Centres
- SMS regarding current consumption charges and due date of payment for the consumers
- Computer based grievance redressal call (1912) ([TN Policy Note](#), 2014-15)

### Tamil Nadu Category-wise total number of consumers (March 2014) - [TNP](#)

Sl.No.	Category	Number
1.	Domestic	1,72,19,933
2.	Commercial	32,87,073
3.	Industries	5,98,750
4.	Agriculture	20,47,174
5.	Huts	11,82,835
6.	Others	8,95,771
	<b>Total</b>	<b>252,31,536</b>

## India Electricity News

### India to separate feeders for round the clock electricity

The Union Budget spelt out the National Democratic Alliance government's plan to supply electricity through separate feeders for agricultural and rural household consumption, aimed at providing round-the-clock power. "Power is a vital input for economic growth and the government is committed to providing 24x7 uninterrupted power supply to all homes. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana for feeder separation will be launched to augment power supply to the rural areas and for strengthening sub-transmission and distribution systems. I propose to set aside a sum of Rs.500 crore for this purpose," finance minister Arun Jaitley said in his budget speech.

Mint reported on 24 June about the plan, based on Jyotigram Yojana in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat, to be made applicable across states to ensure around eight hours of quality power supply to agricultural consumers and 24-hour electricity to households. In addition, the initiative also involves complete metering and strengthening of the electricity distribution system. Separating feeders ensures that while farmers gets the desired amount of electricity, the quality of power and its availability for households improves. Also, availability of electricity ensures billing and reduction of technical and commercial losses because of theft. Billing losses are estimated at around 27% of the electricity generated in the country.

"Proposals for feeder segregation and distributed solar generation will improve the availability and quality of power supply in rural areas. The resources required for this, however, are far larger than budgeted, and this initial allocation should be used to attract domestic and multilateral funds," said Kameswara Rao, leader energy, utilities, mining at PwC India. Debasish Mishra, senior director at Deloitte added that the allocation was inadequate. ([Live Mint](#), 10 June, 2014)

## India Bets On Renewable Energy & Biotech

Dashing the expectations of India's scientific community, the newly elected government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has only marginally increased the annual budgetary allocation for science departments.

The budget for 2014–2015 presented in Parliament this week sets aside one billion Indian rupees (US\$16.6 million) for a national adaptation plan to give thrust to the renewable energy sector. Finance minister Arun Jaitley also announced US\$83.07 million for solar power plants in the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir. Overall allocation for the renewable energy ministry is at US\$158.4 million, down from last year's US\$254 million.

Sunita Narain, director general of the Centre for Science and Environment, a New Delhi-based non-government organisation, said in a statement that the duty exemptions and other provisions on renewable are "welcome, but not enough." The budget does not appreciate that the future of solar energy lies in decentralised and off-grid solutions with "smaller power plants that provide clean energy to millions across India's grid and remote villages that have electricity lines but no power." "Instead, Budget 2014 falls back on the 'big' solar plants — announcing US\$83 million for ultra mega solar power plants," Narain said in the statement.

R. K. Pachauri, executive director of The Energy Resources Institute, New Delhi, says that while the focus on renewable is welcome, he "is surprised" that the government has not spelt out any details on energy security, given the current Iraq crisis.

Similarly, Jaitley announced funds to scale up biotech clusters in Faridabad and Bangalore to international levels and turn the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology into a world leader in life sciences. The allocation for biotechnology is US\$252.05 million, a hike of just US\$2.49 million or 1.0 percent over last year.

Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan, secretary in India's department of biotechnology (DBT), tells SciDev.Net that the budget should not be seen in mere mathematical figures. What works for DBT, he says, is a new partnership of institutions that would create synergy to attract high-quality research and funds, freeing up resources for DBT's ambitious plans for biology components in medical and environmental research.

The department of science and technology (DST), which Vijay Raghavan also heads, gets US\$588.8 million, an 11 percent rise over last year. The additional funds would be used to foster public-private partnerships and translate high-quality research funded by DST into entrepreneurship, Vijay Raghavan says. The department of earth sciences gets a mere 0.5 percent hike compared to last year, while health research gets only a 0.9 percent hike. Space and atomic energy have fared better with a 6.5 percent rise for the former at US\$1.202 billion, and a 3.4 percent rise for the atomic energy department at US\$87 billion. ([SciDev](#), 12 July, 2014)

## Consumer Corner

### Electricity Consumers - Rights Statement (**Maharashtra Distribution Company—MAHADISCOM**) (Part—1)

This Consumers' Rights Statement is a synopsis of rights available under the Electricity Act 2003 to consumers of electricity, with the twin objectives of

- Enabling consumers to protect themselves by creating an awareness regarding the rights available
- Service as well as the level of quality that consumers may reasonably expect from the electricity distribution companies in their area of supply.

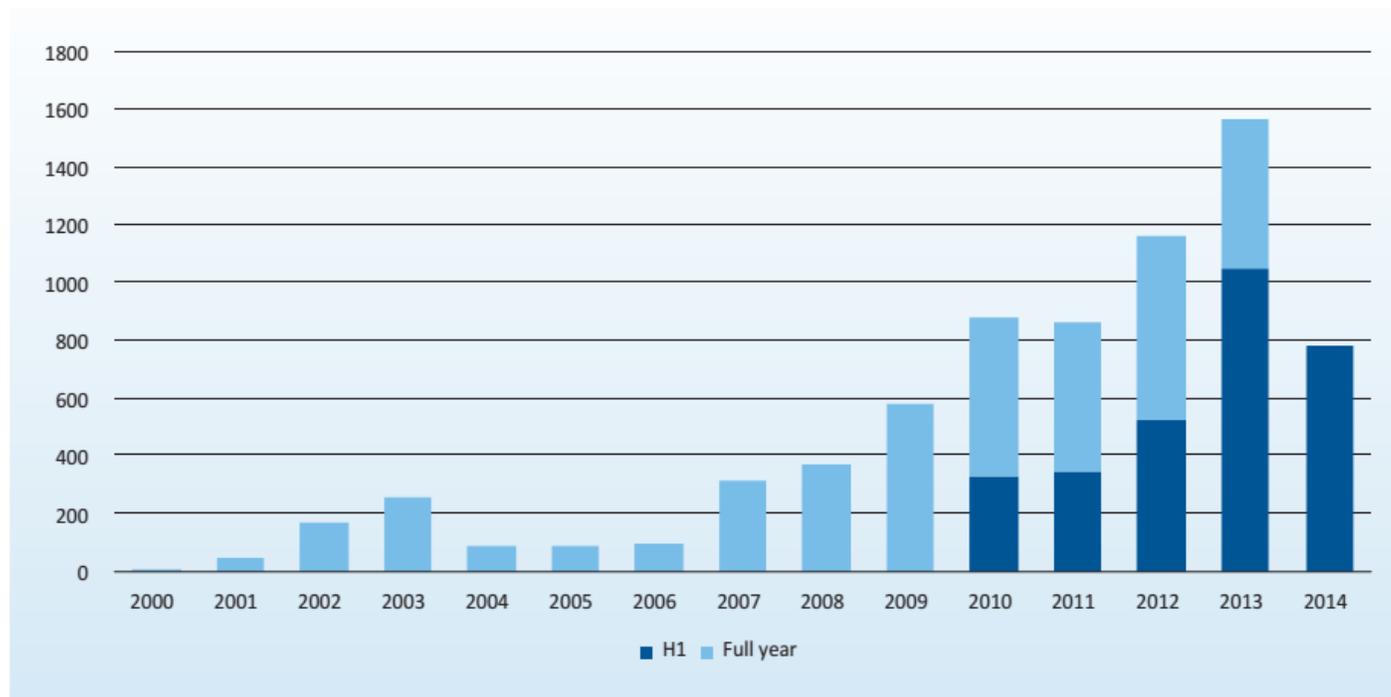
#### I. RIGHT TO KNOW

Consumers have the following basic rights to have access to information on matters related to electricity supply —

1. The conditions and procedure for getting new connection, disconnection, reconnection, change in load/name/tariff category.
2. Standards of performance regarding quality to be maintained and services to be provided by Distribution Licensees.
3. The code of practice on payment of bills.
4. Complaint handling procedures and grievance redressal.
5. Tariff schedule and other schedule of Charges approved by the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission ("MERC").
6. Correctness of meter.
7. To know and choose the electric service provider upon fulfilling certain eligibility conditions Under Open Access and implementation of retail competition.

## Around the World

### European offshore wind industry- Installed Capacity in MW—EWEA— 2014



Source: EWEA



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#### Publications

- European Wind Energy Association, Saving water with wind energy, June 2014. click [here](#)
- ESMAP, Driving Energy Efficiency Markets through Municipal Procurement, Knowledge Series 017/14, 2014. click [here](#)

#### Latest Regulations

- Energy Department Policy Note, 2014-2015, Demand Note No. 14, Tamil Nadu Government. click [here](#)
- Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission, Extension of validity of the Commission's Tariff Order No.8 of 2012 on Biomass based Power Plants, 2014. click [here](#)

#### Miscellaneous

- ESMAP, Model for Electricity Technology Assessment (META), - comparative assessment of the economic costs of more than 50 electricity generation and delivery technologies . click [here](#)
- PGS, Energy Training & Electric Power Classroom Seminars, click [here](#)

#### ABOUT CAG

Established in 1985, Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) is an advocacy and campaigning group that works towards protecting citizens rights in consumer and environmental issues and promotes good governance processes including transparency, accountability and participatory decision-making.