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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-4)

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 Amendments:** "2.(i) Within a Survey Field number or sub divided Survey Field number, a person shall be given more than one agricultural service connection subject to the condition that the wells are physically segregated. The minimum area of the land shall be 0.5 acre.

(ii) One agricultural service connection to each person shall be given in a well owned by more than one person subject to the condition that the minimum area of the land owned by each person is 0.5 acre.

**Comments:** The entire section should be struck down as it will lead to fragmentation of land, over-exploitation of ground water resources as having a bore-well/well in every 0.5 acre will drain the aquifers and create erratic and skewed cultivation patterns, affecting food security in Tamil Nadu.

Incorporating a note from TEGI Network Member - Mr. Ranganathan, Cauvery Delta Farmers Association, who states that

"the contemplated amendments for allotment of farm pumpsets for owners of lands with just 0.5 acres are not correct. The plan to provide licence to install agriculture pumpset provisionally without obtaining detailed plans and location (e.g. RS No. of the land, where the pumpset is to be installed is basically wrong and will give rise to misuse of the licence). TNERC should also take into account a situation where a partition of land is possible, but "partition of a well among for example, 4 brothers, would give rise to lot problem as it may mean over-extraction from the same source of water".

"TNERC may note that while there are clear rules and regulations for surface-water usage; there is no such regulation with regard to abstraction and distribution of ground water."

"Over-exploitation of ground water in Cauvery Delta has resulted in many areas, which were previously classified as "white" have become "grey" or "dark.""

**Suggested amendment:** " (5) All motors/pump sets connected in Low Tension service connections shall be certified /approved by BIS/BEE with manufacturers name plate indicating rating and capacity permanently affixed on it."

**Comment:** No Comments

**Suggested amendment:** " (3A) If the intending agricultural consumer does not avail the supply at any time before the expiry of two years from the date of expiry of the notice period specified in sub-regulation(3),the application shall be treated as lapsed and cancelled."

**Comment:** No Comments (Concluded)

## TN Electricity News

### Rs. 5,284 crore for strengthening power infrastructure

The Tamil Nadu government will spend Rs. 5,284 crore on strengthening power distribution and transmission infrastructure, Chief Minister Jayalalithaa informed the Assembly.

Making a suo motu statement, she said 60 new sub-stations and 2,500 km of high-tension transmission lines would be created. To shore up the power infrastructure in Chennai city, two more 230-KV sub-stations would be established at West Mambalam and Porur at a cost of Rs. 338.08 crore. A 400-KV sub-station would come up at Kamudhi in Ramanathapuram district at a cost of Rs. 435.50 crore, and another costing Rs. 47.51 crore would be established at Muthuramalingapuram in Virudhunagar district. These would be used to uplink the solar power generated in the district to the State grid.

### 28,000 transformers

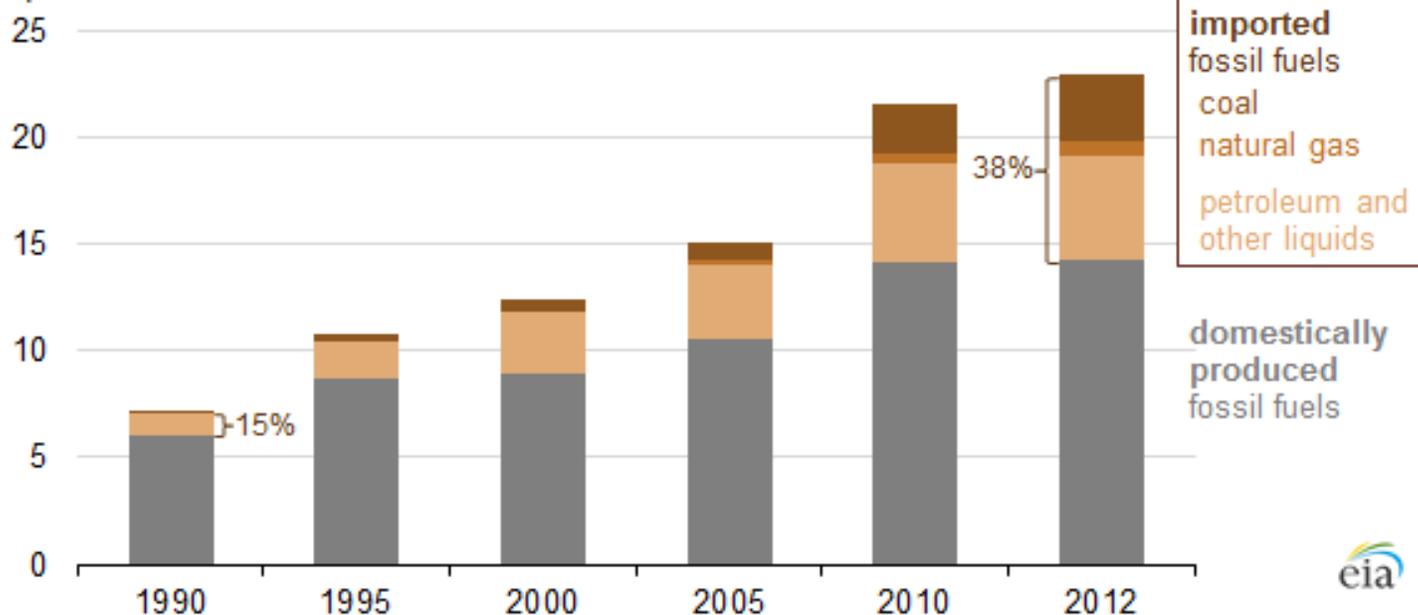
To strengthen the power distribution system, 28,000 transformers would be procured and installed at a cost of Rs. 660 crore during the current financial year, Ms. Jayalalithaa said. Ten lakh new connections would be given. A sum of Rs. 120 crore was allotted for renovating and increasing the installed capacity of the two units of the Sholayar Hydro Electric Project Phase I. Consequently, their installed capacity would go up from 35 MW to 42 MW.

The Chief Minister said the State would get 2,000 MW more, including from the thermal and atomic power plants to be commissioned this fiscal. The State would get 1,000 MW from the long-term power purchase agreements from this August. It was already getting 224 MW. The agreements were for purchase of 3,330 MW over 15 years from 2014-15. The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) would get the balance from 2015-16. The third unit of the 500-MW Vallur Thermal Power Project, a joint venture between the Tangedco and National Thermal Power Corporation, would start commercial production by August.

While Unit I of a power project, a joint venture of the Tangedco and the Neyveli Lignite Corporation, would go on stream by October, Unit II of 500 MW would start production by March next. From these projects, Tamil Nadu would get 387 MW, the Chief Minister said. From the first unit of the Kudankulam project, the State was getting 562 MW, including the Centre's unallocated share of 100 MW. The second unit was likely to start commercial production by the year-end, and from it the State would get 463 MW. The two units of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Expansion Project Phase II would start commercial production in the current fiscal to yield 230 MW to the State. [\(Hindu, 31 July, 2014\)](#)

## India Electricity News

### India fossil fuel consumption quadrillion British thermal units



Source: [U.S. Energy Information Administration, International Energy Statistics](#)

## Power shortages hamper India's manufacturing

During India's recent electoral campaign, Narendra Modi repeatedly highlighted his achievement of providing a round-the-clock power supply to the people of Gujarat, the western Indian state he governed for more than a decade. Now as Prime Minister, Modi faces the challenge of fixing India's crumbling energy infrastructure. Some 75 million households in this vast nation lack access to electricity, particularly in rural areas. Mark Williams, chief Asia economist at the research consultancy firm Capital Economics, says that successive governments have struggled to build infrastructure to meet India's growing energy needs because an array of factors ranging from "severe delays over acquisition of land for power projects, concerns about corruption and a lack of focus on the issue among officials."

**Coal's primacy:** According to the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA), government approvals are the "greatest barrier" for the expansion of electricity production capacity in India. Another issue underpinning the country's energy troubles is its heavy reliance on coal. Around 59 percent of the power is generated by burning the fossil fuel. Under normal conditions, this shouldn't be a problem as the South Asian nation is home to one of the largest stockpiles of coal. But despite being the world's third largest producer, the country is unable to meet its coal-fired power stations' demand for the raw material. Claims of graft related to the allocation of coal blocks to mining companies have further depressed domestic production. The country had to import some 165 million tons of coal in the fiscal year to March 2014, thus contributing significantly to its current account deficit. Indian companies have also been venturing abroad in their efforts to secure coal supplies. For instance, on July 28 Australia gave its approval for Indian firm Adani to develop a massive coal mine in Queensland State, a project that is estimated to be worth 15.5 billion USD. It is expected to ultimately provide electricity for up to 100 million people in India.

**Increasing demand:** Experts say India's cumbersome regulations as well as under-investment in transmission and distribution networks are the reason for the inefficiency of its power sector. Rob Dobson, senior economist at the market research group Markit Economics, says that in the short term there should be "increased investment in the coal industry, in order to remove bottlenecks and raise the coal production." But the long-term solution is to invest in new sources of energy production to reduce the reliance on coal-based production, he added. At present the contribution of other sources such as hydro and nuclear power to India's energy mix is relatively small, amounting to some 17 percent and two percent, respectively. The country aims to generate 20,000 MW of solar power by 2020. But it still has a long way to go to realize this goal and reduce its dependence on fossil fuels. In the meanwhile, there are concerns that the gap between electricity supply and demand will further widen as a growing population and an expanding economy consume increasing amounts of energy.

**A crucial factor:** The resulting shortfall could lead to increased power blackouts of the kind seen a couple of years ago, when more than half of the country was left without electricity due to several states drawing power which exceeded the allocated limits. Industrial firms wanting to operate in India "prefer to build their own power facilities so as not to be at the mercy of the electric grid," Williams told DW. But this is expensive and does not isolate them from problems similar to those faced by electricity suppliers and distributors, he added. The economist underlines that the country's efforts to move into heavier and higher value added industries are likely to be "stymied as these sectors depend on a reliable and cost effective source of energy." Boosting electricity capacity and distribution will be important for India to fulfill its potential as a manufacturing hub and move up the value added chain. (DW, 27 July, 2014)

## Consumer Corner

### Electricity Consumers - Rights Statement (Maharashtra Distribution Company—MAHADISCOM) (Part—2)

#### II. PROCEDURE FOR GETTING NEW CONNECTION

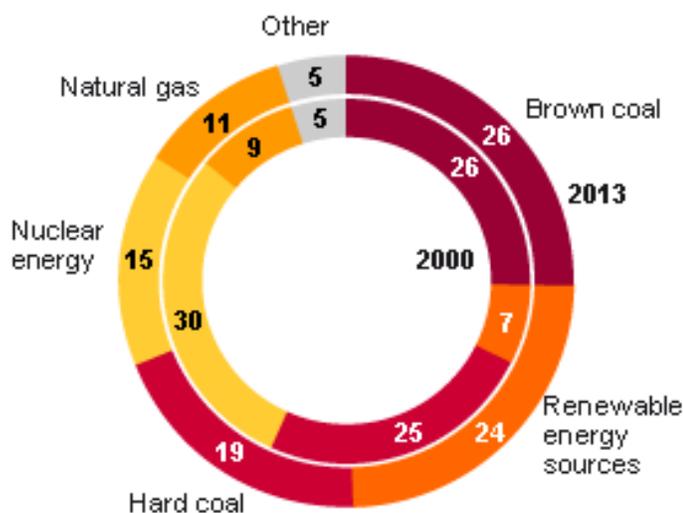
1. To receive application form(s) free of cost at any of the offices of electricity distribution companies in their area of supply.
2. To access the application form and format of the agreement to be executed for obtaining new connections from the website of the electricity distribution company in order to download the electronic media version of the application form as well as agreement format.
3. To know the status of their application and information about reasons of non-disposal or rejection thereof, personal hearing, appeal and removal of deficiencies.
4. To receive a copy of the agreement after the same has been executed for obtaining a new connection.
5. To receive prior intimation regarding the visit/ entry into their premises by an authorized representative of the electricity distribution company in their supply area.
6. To demand proof of identity from such representatives of the electricity distribution company visiting their premises.
7. To know the charges that the applicant / consumer has to pay to get the supply/new connection as per Schedule of Charges approved by MERC.
8. To receive supply within the time provided in the Electricity Act, 2003 ("EA 2003") read with the Standards of Performance regulations notified by the MERC after following the correct procedure as laid down in the Electricity Supply Code notified by the MERC on payment of fees and charges as per MERC approved Charges
9. To receive the receipt of fees and charges paid to the Distribution

## Around the World

### Gross electricity production in 2013: 24% came from renewable energy sources

#### Gross electricity production

Percentage shares



Source: AGEE-Stat and AGE B.

© Statistisches Bundesamt, Wiesbaden 2014

The reform of the Renewable Energies Act planned by Economic Affairs Minister Sigmar Gabriel is strongly criticised by environmentalists. Protests are mainly aimed at plans to cap the expansion of renewable energies. The Renewable Energies Act entered into force on 1 April 2000 with the aim of promoting the use of regenerative energy sources by means of biogas, solar and wind power plants.

Approximately 634 billion kilowatt hours of electricity were produced in Germany in 2013, 24% of which came from renewable energy sources. While regenerative energy sources accounted for almost one quarter of total electricity production in 2013, their share amounted to only 7% in 2000. At the time, the most important renewable energy source had been water power (4%). In 2013, green electricity was generated mainly from wind power (8%), bio-mass (7%) and photovoltaics (5%).

Under the transformation of the energy system, renewable energies are supposed to become the most important energy source in the long run. There are plans to increase their share in the gross electricity production in Germany to at least 80% by 2050. However, a fossil energy source, brown coal, was the major energy carrier in 2013. Together with hard coal, brown coal accounted for 45% of gross electricity production. ([German Government Statistics, 2014](#))



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#### Publications

- Friedman, Barry, Robert Margolis, and Joachim Seel. Comparing Photovoltaic (PV) Costs and Deployment Drivers in the Japanese and U.S. Residential and Commercial Markets. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), 2014. click [here](#)
- New Zealand Electricity Authority, Market Commentary, 2014. click [here](#)

#### Latest Regulations

- CERC, Staff Paper on Allowing Electricity Traders to Aggregate and Disaggregate Contracts and Calculate Average Trading Margin for the transactions, click [here](#)
- CERC, Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Open Access in inter-State Transmission) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2014. click [here](#)

#### Miscellaneous

- European PV Solar Energy Conference 2014, RAI Convention and Exhibition Center, 22-26 September 2014. click [here](#)
- ICAO, Fuelling Aviation with Green Technology, 9 and 10 September 2014, ICAO Headquarters, Montréal, Canada. 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.



**The Trustees and Staff of CAG**

cordially invite you to the

**2014 S. Guhan Memorial Lecture**

by

**Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan,**

(Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi)

***“Nature Without Borders”***

On

**September 5, 2014 at 6:00 p.m**

Sivagami Pethachi Auditorium, MCTM School  
179, Luz Church Road, Mylapore  
Chennai – 600 004.

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