



Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission

Civil Lines, G.E. Road, Raipur – 492001

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Suo-motu Petition No. 07 of 2007 (M)

In the matter of additional measures to be taken during summer season of '07 for regulating supply of electricity

Suo-motu petition

1. Energy Deptt., Govt. of Chhattisgarh, Raipur
2. Urban Administration and Development Deptt., Govt. of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
3. Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board, Raipur.
4. Steel Authority of India Ltd., Bhilai Steel Plant, Durg (Distribution licensee).

Respondents

Order (Passed on 28.3.2007)

The State is facing acute shortage of power, to the extent of almost 25% in peak hours. The peak demand for electricity in the State has increased from 1400MW in 2001 to 2500MW in the current year – a rise of 78% - in the last six years while there has been addition of only 23MW to the generation capacity of the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB or the Board). The resultant demand-supply gap has brought about the present shortage situation. The gap tends to widen in the summer months of April to June mainly because of summer paddy and additional commercial and domestic load. The Board has projected a peak morning demand of 2250 MW and peak evening demand of 2500MW with a deficit of 250 MW in the morning hours and 500 MW in the evening peak hours, during the months of April and May, 2006. This will necessitate widespread load shedding in the coming months at least up to May '07 and up to June '07 to a lesser extent. To meet the situation effectively a multi-pronged strategy is called for which would include apart from additional purchase of power also judicious and equitable load management. The CSEB is enforcing load shedding plan as approved by the Commission for these months. Experience has been that the during summer months load shedding far exceeds the plan, in case of forced outage of the one of the generating units of the Board. The situation demands that there should atleast be an effective curb on such uses of electricity as are not essential.

2. Facing a similar situation last year, the Commission passed an order on 30.03.06 regarding measures to deal with power shortage in the State in the summer season of the year 2006. In pursuance of the advice of the Commission and directives from Energy Deptt., Govt. of Chhattisgarh, Urban Administration and Development Deptt., Govt. of Chhattisgarh, issued letters No. ,Q&8&21@18@2005 dated 21.04.06 and ,Q&8&21@18@2005 dated 29.05.06 vide which directions have been issued to Nagar Palika Nigams/ Nagar Palika Parishads/ Nagar Panchayats regarding measures to be taken for energy conservation

3. It is in the above background that the Commission had provisionally decided, in exercise of the powers vested in it under section 23 of the Electricity Act, 2003 “for

maintaining efficient supply, securing the equitable distribution of electricity”, to direct CSEB/ State Govt. Deptt./ Semi-State Govt. institutions to take the following measures with effect from 1st April, 2007:

- (i) In all State government offices/semi-government institutions, air conditioners shall be switched off at 6 PM.
- (ii) All offices of the State government offices/semi-government institutions a reduction of 10% of average consumption of power should be affected during April 07 and May 07.
- (iii) Neon-signs installed on government/ semi government/ non-government buildings shall not be illuminated from 6 PM to 11 PM.
- (iv) There shall be no lights on hoardings and no lighted hoardings except by solar panels between 6 PM and 11 PM.
- (v) Street lights:
 - (a) There should be only alternate streetlights which should be switched on at 7 PM and switched off at 5 AM.
 - (b) CSEB will ensure that no maintenance on the streetlight is done during day hours and under any circumstance streetlights should not be found switched on during day hours.
 - (c) High mast lighting, which consume a lot of power shall not be permitted except on major inter-sections of highways.
- (vi) In government/semi-government and Municipal Corporation gardens, illumination after 10 PM should be kept at the minimum.
- (vii) No LT industry, except, those already covered under load shedding plan and those who have got continuous process viz ice factory, cold storage and chemical plant, etc. should be allowed to use power for production purposes between 6 PM and 11 PM.
- (viii) CSEB should not give temporary connections for outdoor games, exhibitions, fairs, for use of electricity during night hours.
- (ix) CSEB should not also give any temporary connection for decorative illumination for social, religious and political functions.

Although the Commission realizes that these measures would not make a large enough dent in the shortage situation, we feel that even a small surplus generated by these measures in the cities/towns may go to reduce, to an extent, load shedding in the rural areas.

4. A notice regarding the proposed measures was accordingly issued in the Commission’s website and placed on the Commission’s public notice board and published in three prominent newspapers viz (1) Nav Bharat, Raipur, (2) Haribhumi, Bilaspur and (3) Hitvada, Raipur on the 19th March ‘07. Comments/ suggestions/ objections were invited by the 26.3.2007. It was also notified that public hearing would be held on 28.3.07 in the office of the Commission in which any stakeholder or any member of the public may participate. Only two representations were received by 26.3.2007 from the following:

- (1) Commissioner, Nagar Palik Nigam, Raipur.
- (2) Shri Rama Rao, B-3, Anand Niketan, Avanti Vihar, Raipur (C.G.)

During public hearing held on 28.03.07, following putforth their views before the Commission;

- (1) Shri Jitendra Shukla, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Raipur
- (2) Shri Rajesh Pandey, Executive Engineer, Municipal Corporation, Raipur.
- (3) Shri N.L.Gupta, C.E., CSEB, Raipur.
- (4) Shri P.S. Chandel, E.E., CSEB, Raipur.

Proceedings of the public hearing have been placed in the Commission's file on the subject.

5. Having considered the objections and suggestions received in writing, as well as expressed during public hearing, and keeping in view the acute power shortage in the State and in the interest of maintaining efficient supply and securing equitable distribution of electricity in the State, the Commission is of the view that the following measures are urgently required:

- (1) Electricity should not be used for neon lights and signs installed on Government or semi-Government or private buildings between 6:00 and 11:00 P.M.
- (2) No hoardings should be illuminated between 6:00 and 11:00 P.M. except by solar panel.
- (3) No high-mast lights except those installed on important crossings (*chouraha*), should be switched on.
- (4) Alternate street lights should be kept switched off by disconnecting the same from the street light phase. Street lights should be switched on at 7 PM and switched off at 5 AM.
- (5) Maintenance of streetlights should be so carried out that it does not require switching on of the streetlights. CSEB should ensure proper maintenance of the electric lines so that streetlights are not switched on during daytime due to fault. In case, streetlights are found switched on during daytime responsibility has to be fixed on the erring persons.
- (6) Restricted illumination should be done in Govt./ Semi-Govt. and Municipal Corporations gardens after 11:00 P.M.
- (7) No LT industries, except those already covered under load-shedding plan, and those which have got continuous process viz. ice factory, cold storage and chemical plants etc. should be allowed to use power for production purpose between 6:00 and 11:00 P.M.
- (8) No temporary connection except for minimum power on security consideration shall be provided by CSEB to exhibitions, games and sports, melas and the like organised in the evening.
- (9) CSEB shall not give any temporary connection for decorative illumination for social, religious or political functions except to meet the minimum functional and security requirement.

The Commission, in exercise of the powers vested in it under section 23 of the Electricity Act, 2003, accordingly directs that the above measures be taken with effect from 1.4.2007, to be continued till end June, 2007 or as may be decided by the Commission. The CSEB and all concerned shall ensure that these measures are

given effect to and enforced. The CSEB, the Municipal Corporations/ Councils shall ensure that these orders are conveyed immediately to all their field offices/ field officers, so that the measures are given effect to from 01.04.07 onwards. The CSEB shall inform the Commission the officers who shall be responsible for the same. Any default in compliance shall attract the provision of the Section 142 of the Act.

6. CSEB was directed by Commission vide order dated 30.03.06 to provide timers on all the street light control points so that switching on and switching off could be coordinated with the sun set and sun rise within the period of 6 months. The Commission has not been informed of the action taken by CSEB in this regard. CSEB is again directed to ensure compliance in this regard latest by 30.06.07.

7. In the context of the present power situation the Commission would also like to appeal to the State Government, the commercial and domestic consumers to observe the following discipline in the use of electricity:

- (1) State Government may like to issue necessary instructions to all Government/Semi Government offices most-urgently that:
 - (i) All lights and fans and air conditioners, coolers etc. are switched off immediately after office hours and minimum lights required for security alone are kept on.
 - (ii) All air conditioners are switched off, in any case, at 6:00 P.M.
 - (iii) Government may also like to issue instructions for the use of CFL lights in place of incandescent bulbs. Tube lights which have got below standard choke should be provided with efficient choke so as to reduce power consumption.
 - (iv) A minimum of 10% reduction in power consumption in every office may be ensured by the head of the office.
 - (v) There are no government/public functions with inessential illumination.
- (2)
 - (i) Commercial consumers should restrict use of power particularly during evening peak hours. Air conditioners should be used sparingly on as required basis. The objective should be to ensure that there is at least 10% reduction in power consumption in these months.
 - (ii) Domestic consumers may use air conditioners sparingly.
 - (iii) Domestic consumers with a load of 5 KW or more should ensure 10% reduction in their consumption.
 - (iv) It should be ensured that there is minimum use of electricity for social, political and religious functions and only for illumination, not for decoration.

Sd/-
Member

Sd/-
Chairman

True Copy

(N.K. Rupwani)
Secretary