

Minutes of the 10th meeting of the Coordination Forum

The Coordination Forum was convened for its 10th Meeting at 10:30 a.m. on 24th October, 2017 at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati.

The list of participants is attached at Annexure-I.

Shri Naba Kumar Das, IAS (Retd), Hon'ble Chairperson, Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC) was in Chair.

The Hon'ble Chairperson, AERC welcomed all the members of the Forum and highlighted that the role of Coordination Forums have attained greater significance, with implementation of broad spectrum programs by both the Central and State Governments for development of the power Sector,. He stated that the power companies need to plan ahead to successfully execute the programs and this forum provides a platform for the companies to share their experiences. He expressed hope that the discussions during the Meeting will be fruitful and facilitate faster and smooth development of the sector, as envisaged. The Hon'ble Chairperson then took up the agenda items one by one.

1) AGENDA ITEM NO. 1:

Confirmation of the minutes of the 9th meeting of the Co-ordination Forum.

The minutes of the 9th meeting of the Co-ordination Forum held on 30.06.2016 were circulated among the members /special invitees. No comments were received. The same was confirmed without any change.

2) AGENDA ITEM NO.2

Action taken on the minutes of the 9th Meeting of the Co-ordination Forum.

A brief PowerPoint presentation was made by Shri J. Bezbaruah, Consultant, AERC highlighting the action taken by AEGCL, APDCL and APGCL on the actionable items of the minutes of the last meeting. The important deliberations that took place are noted below:

- 2.1 APGCL informed the Forum that, the Gas Supply Agreement (GSA) for the proposed 30 MW Silchar Power project, for which ONGC agreed to supply 0.15 MMSCMD of gas, has not materialised. APGCL further informed that ONGC has cancelled the gas allocation and encashed the Security Deposit of Rs.5.83Cr submitted by APGCL against the bid.
- 2.2 On a query from Shri Abhijit Barooah, Co-Chairman, CII North-East Council, regarding the reason for this cancellation & encashment of security deposit amount, APGCL informed that even though APGCL was the lone party in the tendering process, the GSA did not materialise due to the following conditions:

- a) The gas supply will be on fall back basis as spelt out in the tender and gas will be available for a period of 15 years.

APGCL insisted on firm gas supply for a period of 25 years.

- b) The pricing of gas was fixed at \$3.82/MMBTU on GCV and if price of gas rises then APGCL would be required to pay the higher price. However, if gas price fell below \$3.82/MMBTU, then APGCL will have to pay a minimum of \$3.82/MMBTU.

The Company did not agree to these conditions as investment in a Gas based Power Plant cannot be made with these conditions.

- 2.3 It was informed that APGCL had requested the CMD, ONGC in June, 2017 to resolve the issues. It was also informed that the date for gas off take was extended to 31.12.2018 from earlier 31.12 2017.

The Hon'ble Chairperson, AERC suggested that APGCL should bring the matter to the notice of the State Government for an effective solution. The Hon'ble Chairperson, AERC, also suggested representative of Dept of Power, Govt. of Assam to support APGCL in arriving at a amicable solution.

- 2.4 AGCL representative informed the forum that HP/LP gas had been made available for LTPS since 01.10.2017.
- 2.5 Representative from APPDCL informed that it has approached Assam Tea Corporation (ATC) for taking up solar projects in some of its degraded tea Gardens. However, the land allocated by ATC for the purpose was insufficient. APPDCL further informed that land has been identified in Bongaigaon and Goalpara districts for solar projects upto 15 MW and the matter has been placed before the State Government for approval. APPDCL proposes to implement the projects through PPP mode by tariff based competitive bidding.
- 2.6 Representative of the State Government informed that the notification of Solar Power Policy is under process.
- 2.7 Regarding the 69 MW solar project at Amguri, it was informed by APGCL that the project capacity has been enhanced to 80 MW and land acquisition for the project is in process. The DPR for the project was submitted by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). The project was decided to be developed by APGCL and SECI would act as the Project Management Consultant. It was further informed that a MOU has been signed with SECI in this regard.
- 2.8 APGCL informed that the 30 MW Solar Project at Chandrapur Thermal Power Station was reported unfeasible due to the undulating terrain of the site.
- 2.9 On an enquiry from the Shri S.C Das, Hon'ble Member, AERC as to why the commissioning of 100 MW Namrup Replacement Power Project was delayed

repeatedly, APGCL informed that there were some unanticipated technical faults and assured that the combined cycle project would be ready by end of November, 2017 for trial run.

It was also informed that the Lakwa Replacement Power Project (LRPP) is expected to be commissioned within March, 2018.

The Hon'ble Commission observed that there should not be further delay in implementation of the Namrup Replacement Power Projects and the Lakwa Replacement Power Projects should get commissioned on time.

ACTION: APGCL/APPDCL/ GoA

3) AGENDA ITEM NO.3

Appraisal of overall power scenario of the State of Assam by APDCL.

Shri P. Gupta, IAS, MD, APDCL gave a brief presentation on the power scenario of the State.

- 4.1. APDCL informed that the total number of consumers is around Rs 42.25 lakhs having a total connected load of 6789 MW. The maximum demand for FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18 (till date) was recorded as 1679 MW and 1823 MW respectively, out of which the respective maximum demand met were 1623 MW and 1740 MW. The deficit was met through exchanges and bilateral provisions on daily basis.
- 4.2. It was informed that power allocation for the State from NEEPCO is around 38% of the total allocation from Central Sector Generating Stations. However, average annual availability from these Stations was only around 70%. Similarly, average power available from the Eastern Region was also around 50%-60% for the last financial year.
- 4.3. The Hon'ble Chairperson, AERC expressed concern that, in the Government of India app called *Vidyut Prabah*, it is always showed that state of Assam is having deficit in power availability in both peak and off peak periods unlike other states of India . APDCL submitted that, considering the unpredictable weather conditions of the State, to avoid excess availability, the Company plans in such a way that all resources are utilised optimally.. APDCL also informed that 90% of the power requirement is generally met through Long Term sources and the rest was met through exchanges. Further, as because the weather & hence demand fluctuates during the various period of the day, at times APDCL need to do occasional over-drawal/under-drawal considering the Frequency profile & requirement. APDCL pointed out that, the Vidyut Prabhah Application may not

have considered the over-drawal done under Deviation Settlement Mechanism, hence the State of Assam is shown to have deficit.

- 4.4. AEGCL remarked that peak demand has increased substantially and the maximum peak demand recorded this year is 1823 MW, whereas the maximum transmission capacity is only 1740 MW. Therefore, augmentation in transmission capacity has to be assigned priority. AEGCL & APDCL stated that investments were being made through ADB funds in this regard.
- 4.5. APDCL also informed that, some of the Networks are very poor and affected by stormy conditions. Therefore, at times, even if power is available, the same cannot be supplied to consumers. The Network need to be improved on priority.
- 4.6. MD, APDCL stated that the number of substations allotted under DDUGJY scheme is not adequate and stated that some states have made its own investment in addition to DDUGJY investment. The Commission suggested that assistance may be sought from the State Government to supplement the number of transformers.

The Hon'ble Commission observed that APDCL may submit a comprehensive proposal before the State Government to support augmentation number as well as capacity of its 33/11 KV substations, 11 KV feeders, transformers, etc through funding from Govt. of Assam. The Commission also requested the representative of Dept of Power, Govt. of Assam to make a note of the same and provide necessary support to APDCL.

- 4.7. APDCL observed that another factor leading to an increase in the power purchase cost is the Point of Connection (POC) charges, which is determined through a complicated calculation based on software designed by IIT, Mumbai.
- 4.8. The Representative from POSOCO stated that POC concept is a scientific method adapted to minimize losses by discouraging concession in transmission. It was further informed that the Ministry of Power is now considering implementation of GNA (General Network Access) mechanism for transmission system development and hassle-free access to the transmission system by the generators. It was informed that there may be a possibility of transmission charges declining, in case, GNA becomes applicable.

ACTION: APDCL/GoA

4) AGENDA ITEM NO.4:

A presentation by APDCL on the UDAY Scheme.

APDCL made a presentation on the UDAY Scheme. The salient points discussed are enumerated below:

- 5.1. Regarding implementation of the UDAY Scheme. it was informed that APDCL was receiving financial support from the State Government. Regarding fund provisioning from the State Government for power procurement, it was informed that Rs. 100 Crores was received against 2016-17 and balance amount of 230.29 Crores is being provided from the budget of 2017-18.

The Commission observed that a number of follow up activities like floating of bonds if so decided by Govt. of Assam and adjustments in the books of accounts, enhancement of authorized share capital of APDCL etc. need to be taken up at the earliest.

- 5.2. APDCL informed that a number of AT&C loss reduction projects were going on under different schemes simultaneously with UDAY. These include reduction of feeder line length, feeder and DTR monitoring, replacement of defective/ stopped meters both at consumer and DTRs, etc.

The Hon'ble Chairperson, AERC informed that the Ministry of Power, Government of India has requested the State Commissions to align the targets of various parameters for the State Power utilities with the Government policies. The Commission had been taking its decisions on the targets based on the power scenarios of the State with an objective to balance the interests of both the utilities and the consumers. Now, since APDCL has signed the UDAY tri-partite agreement, it has become incumbent upon APDCL to achieve the targets of loss reduction as per the agreement and the Commission would be bound to set similar targets in its Tariff Orders. This means occurrence of high financial loss to the Discom unless targeted technological upgradations are carried out at a faster pace and with strong determination to meet the timelines. Besides, support from the State Government would be required at least in the initial years. The Hon'ble Chairperson therefore, asked APDCL to take note of the situation and discuss the matter with the State Government.

MD, APDCL assured that they would come out with appropriate timelines and action for implementation of various activities under the scheme.

- 5.3. The status of important targeted activities undertaken under UDAY as discussed is given below:
- i) On 100% feeder metering, it was informed that APDCL is having around 1450 feeders, out of which 395 are in R-APDRP areas and all are under AMR, and 1055 are in rural areas, out of which 300 are being metered under DDUGJY. The functioning of meters in rest 755 feeders needs to be checked
 - ii) Regarding status of 100% Distribution Transformer (DTR) metering, it was informed that at present there are 56847 Common DTRs including 5624 in

RAPDRP area. 21900 additional DTRs have been proposed. The total number of DTRs to be metered are 44782 nos. Including 21900 new DTRS..

- iii) It was informed that at present, energy accounting is being done for 11 KV rural feeders. However, GIS indexing of the rural feeders is needed for proper energy auditing. A proposal in this regard has been submitted to GoA for budgetary approval.

The Commission opined that the APDCL may create a separate cell with qualified, well trained professionals to carry out the energy accounting for the Company. Besides, energy accounting and monitoring should be a regular exercise and therefore a dedicated team of professionals should be engaged. APDCL should also maintain a reserve stock of spare meters so that the defective meters can be replaced immediately on detection.

- iv) On installation of Smart Meters for all consumers other than agricultural consumers consuming above 200 units /month, it was informed that 13,297 Smart Meters have been installed as on 06.09.2017 under Smart Grid Pilot Project in Guwahati City. For rest, budgetary approval from State Government is awaited.
- v) It was informed that tea garden feeder separation is in progress under ADB & TDF Schemes and Annual Plan 2017-18. Out of 876 tea gardens, around 200 gardens are being provided power through dedicated feeders.
- vi) On providing LED bulbs for domestic consumers under Domestic Efficient Lighting Program (DELP), it was informed that 2.8 lakh LED bulbs have been distributed so far. It was also informed that under UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) & PAVAN (Performance for Acceleration of Energy Saving Fans) schemes, 3.58 lakh 9 Watt LED bulbs, 42,600 LED tubelights & 6000 Energy Efficient fans will be distributed.

The Hon'ble Chairperson opined that given the new challenges in the evolving power scenario, the Distribution Companies do not have the manpower and time to distribute LEDS and EE appliances. The Discom must therefore not be solely burdened with such responsibilities and, the State Government may consider deploying some other agencies also for the purpose.

ACTION: APDCL/GoA

5) AGENDA ITEM NO.5:

Appraisal of the status of the ongoing SHP projects for which tariff based competitive bidding process was undertaken.

The present status of SHP projects under competitive bidding in the State as narrated by representative from APPDCL, are as follows:

- 5.1. The 4.7 MW Bordikorai SHP has been finally closed as forest clearance could not be obtained.
- 5.2. Regarding 6 MW Kalanga Stage I and Stage II SHP in Karbi Anglong district and 1.6 MW Dronpara SHP in Boko, it was informed that notices have been issued to the project developer from the Government of Assam for not carrying out the project implementation works as per agreement.
- 5.3. It was informed that the 22.5 MW Borpani Middle- I and 24 MW Borpani Middle- II SHPs in Karbi Anglong district are under different stages of implementation.
- 5.4. APPDCL stated that they have submitted some proposals to the Government of Assam for establishment of solar parks and a proposal of Waste to Energy project has also been submitted to Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC).

ACTION: APPDCL/ GoA

6) AGENDA ITEM NO.6:

Status of new and ongoing power projects of NEEPCO, NHPC, PGCIL and NTPC in Assam/ NER ---- NTPC/ NHPC/ NEEPCO/PGCIL

- 6.1. Representative from NHPC stated that 9 committees have been formed by the National Green Tribunal so far for the 2000 MW Lower Subansiri Project and a decision is yet to be taken.

The 3000 MW Dibang Hydro Electric Project in Arunachal Pradesh is progressing smoothly. NHPC stated that they would like to foray into setting up renewable projects like solar and Small Hydro in the region in future.

NHPC further intimated that, there are certain Land Acquisition related issues in Tawang-I & II. The same may get sorted out soon.

NHPC further highlighted that, the Flood related problem in Upper Assam, i.e. linked to the Ranganadi HEP of NEEPCO, has created bad impression before the general public about the Hydro projects. Therefore, NHPC requested NEEPCO to resolve the matter fast.

- 6.2. NEEPCO informed that the 110 MW Pare project is likely to be commissioned in March 2018 and works related to 600 MW Kameng Power Project is progressing well. There are no new projects in Assam at present.

- 6.3. Representative from PGCIL gave a brief presentation on the status of the ongoing North-Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) in Assam.

The total funds sanctioned against these projects is Rs 1459 Cr and there is also a capacity building program of Rs 14.83 Cr. 50% of these funds are provided by the Government of India and 50% from the World Bank. It incorporates development of 60 Substations (both EHV and distribution substations) and 712 km lines. The target date of completion of these projects is December 2018.

The Hon'ble Commission suggested APDCL & AEGCL to ensure that connecting facilities to the new PGCIL network is made ready simultaneously. The Commission requested all the power companies to adhere to the timelines for completion of different projects being undertaken.

- 6.4. OTPCL informed the Forum that, the issue of shortage of gas for the present project, for which CERC approved a lower PLF likely to be resolved by next year in September'2018 and the plant may be able to operate @100% capacity. Thereby, additional power to the tune of 100 MW will become available for NER.

OTPCL further informed that, ONGC has indicated that additional 2-2.5 MMSCMD gas may become available by 2021. In case the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is approached the same may be allotted to OTPC itself. OTPC may utilise the same to run two more new units.

MD, OTPCL also stated that, OTPCL can utilise the presently available land of OTPC itself for installing two additional units. However, for getting allocation from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the OTPCL need to submit commitment from NER states in this regard. He also stated that, a letter in this regard has already been sent to respective Distribution Utilities.

The Commission advised OTPCL to write to the MD, APDCL in this regard with all necessary information and MD, APDCL to examine the proposal and convey their decisions to OTPCL at the earliest..

- 6.5. NTPC gave a brief account of their coal requirement at the Bongaigaon Thermal Power Plant (BTPP) and the same is reproduced below:

- i. Coal stock at plant as on 00.00 hrs of 24.10.2017 was 1119 MT. Daily requirement of one Unit (250 MW) at full load is 3000 MT. With COD of Unit #2, daily requirement of the plant will be 6000 MT.
- ii. BTPP has two FSAs for Unit #1 & 2 :
 - a) FSA with ECL for 4 Lac MT per annum i.e. approx. 1100 MT per day and
 - b) FSA with NECL for 12.5 Lac MT per annum i.e. approx. 3400 MT per day.

However, the plant is unable to use NE coal till the FGD system becomes operational.

- iii. Unit # 1 was synchronized on 14.08.2017 after a shut-down of four months. At the time of synchronization, coal stock of the plant was about 1 Lac MT, but due to continuous supply consumption gap the stock has come down to near zero.
- iv. Coal supply since synchronization (i.e.14.08.2017) is only nine rakes (approx. 33000 MT) from ECL and two rakes (approx. 7000 MT) from NEC.
- v. Under the recently signed new supplementary agreement between NTPC and CIL for flexible utilization of coal, NTPC allocated 1,10,000 MT of coal in August and September, 2017 from CCL to BTPP from accounts of other Units of NTPC and BTPP also deposited advance of Rs. 3.75 crores with CCL for the first supply. The first rake of coal from CCL is expected earliest by 20th November only as the arrangement to transport the coal from mines to railhead by road is under process.
- vi. Under the above circumstances, if both Unit # 1 & Unit # 2 are to be run, approx. 6000 MT of coal per day i.e. approx 3 rakes in two days is required from ECL.

The Hon'ble Commission opined that NTPC must try to procure coal from the Eastern coal fields at a lower rate so as to make their rates competitive. Further, setting up of the FGD system to use coal from NER fields should be expedited.

The Commission also suggested to the Govt. of Assam to take up the matter at highest level to reduce the cost of power from BTPS & ensuring availability of coal.

ACTION: APDCL/ PGCIL/NTPC

7) AGENDA ITEM NO. 7:

Issues of Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station of NTPC.

- 7.1. It was stated that although Unit #1 of Bongaigaon Thermal Power Project (BTPP) was commissioned in April' 2016, the Unit #2 is yet to run commercially. Besides, the average rate of power from Unit #1 of BTPP for FY 2016-17 was Rs. 5.48/ KWh which is relatively much higher compared to other Central Sector Generating Stations. It was observed that at present APDCL is buying additional power from IEX on day ahead basis and it is estimated that APDCL may have to incur Rs. 10 Crore to Rs 30 Crores more compared to IEX, if the BTPP Unit #2 comes into commercial operation.
- 7.2. Representative from BTPP stated that the higher cost of power in case of BTPP was on account of two reasons – i) higher project cost due to frequent local bandhs

leading to time overrun of almost two years and ii) high cost of G4 grade allotted for the Station. It was informed that BTPP has been requesting the concerned Ministry, Government of India for allocation of Grade 6 coal which is low priced. Regarding sourcing coal from North East coal fields it was informed that the requisite infrastructure to utilize high sulphur coal is still not ready in their plant. It was further informed that the cost of power from Unit #2 of BTPP is expected to be lower than Unit #1 by Rs 0.30 – Rs 0.40 per unit.

- 7.3. APDCL remarked that considering the high cost, few other States have surrendered the power from BTPP.

The Commission observed that APDCL should not surrender any power allotted from NTPC Bongaigaon until Assam has its own sources of generation to fall back on, when necessary. Besides, power available from the market is unreliable and prices vary from time to time. The Commission further observed that there is probability of power price rising in the future given the mounting demand for power. Instead, the Commission directed that APDCL should file an objection petition before CERC regarding the high price since the tariffs for the Stations of Bongaigaon Thermal Power Project is determined by CERC. However, the Commission observed that before doing so, a proper study regarding the cost breakup of the Stations for NTPC Bongaigaon must be done through a competent agency. Based on this Study Report, APDCL may submit a additional affidavit before CERC.

- 7.4. The Hon'ble Commission observed that APDCL should also try to find out what may be the saving to the Company for procuring power from NTPC Bongaigaon against applicable POC charges on procurement of the same quantum of power from outside the State.

ACTION: APDCL

8) AGENDA ITEM NO. 8:

Gas Supply position of the Thermal (proposed and existing) Station of APGCL/NEEPCO/OTPC – ONGC/OIL/GAIL//AGCL.

- 8.1. APGCL informed that during FY 2016-17, natural gas supplied by OIL to LTPS & NTPS was erratic due to strike/ bandh/ natural calamities etc. Regarding LTPS, less gas consumption from GAIL in the months of November 2016 and December 2016 is also due to maintenance shutdown of units 3 & 6. However, APGCL made all efforts to receive the gas supply as per commitment and also tried for allotment of additional gas supply to overcome lower generation.
- 8.2. It was informed that M/s AGCL has put into service another 14 inch dia pipeline in parallel with the existing pipeline which increased the quantum of gas supplied to LTPS. The second pipeline was put into service in July 2016.

8.3. The gas supply to LTPS is made available from M/s Oil India Ltd. through transporter M/s AGCL and from M/s GAIL (ONGC Gas). The required quantity of 0.9 MMSCMD of gas for LTPS will be utilized after commissioning of 70 MW LRPP as under:

LRPP (70 MW) = 0.36 MMSCMD; LTPS Phase-II (3x20MW) =0.54 MMSCMD, including WHR Unit of 37.2 MW. Therefore, total generation capacity will be 167.2 MW.

8.4. The total present allocation of gas for NTPS is 0.66 MMSCMD, NRPP (1 x 100 MW) will require 0.492 MMSCMD. With the left-over quantity of 0.168 MMSCMD, one 21 MW GT Unit (either Unit #2 or #3) along with connected waste heat recovery Unit # 6 will be in operation. APGCL also plans to utilize the surplus gas of 0.168 MMSCMD by installing a Gas Engine based power project of estimated capacity of 30 MW.

8.5. It was informed that APGCL has also moved to install NRPP Phase-II (1 x 100 MW) which will require 0.492 MMSCMD gas. Thus, action was initiated for obtaining additional gas linkage of 0.324 MMSCMD (0.492-0.168) gas from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. A meeting was also held with M/s OIL India limited, M/s AGCL and additional gas quantity of 0.324 MMSCMD for NRPP-II was requested within 2 ^{1/2} years so that implementation work can be started at the earliest.

M/s OIL stated that the Baghjan field is the only hope on additional gas. However, OIL assured to supply the requisite 0.49 MMSCMD gas to NRPP-I uninterruptedly.

8.6. It was informed that the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam in February 2017, requested the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India for allotment of 0.324 MMSCMD additional quantity of gas to NRPP-II from the existing or new exploration fields near the plant under M/s OIL India Limited. Response from MoP& NG, GoI is awaited.

9) AGENDA ITEM NO.9:

Presentation by APGCL, AEGCL & APDCL on the status of ongoing generation, transmission and distribution projects under different schemes (R-APDRP, TDF, NLCPR, World Bank Assisted Projects, etc) including status of renovation and modernisation works.

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Presentation by CGM (RE) on the status of Rural Electrification / Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)/ Prime Minister Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya)

A Power Point Presentation was made on the ongoing projects by AEGCL, APDCL and APGCL. The important points discussed are recorded below:

- 9.1. The 13.5 MW (project capacity enhanced from 9 MW) Myntriang Small Hydro Electric Project is expected to be commissioned in December, 2017.
- 9.2. Lakwa Replacement Power Project (LRPP) is expected to come into operation from April 2018.
- 9.3. Preparation of DPR for the 2x800 MW Margherita Thermal Power Project is in process by NTPC.
- 9.4. The environment and forest clearances etc, for 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydro Electric Project is awaited. Forest Clearance application uploaded in MoEF website on 08.09.2017. Environment Clearance application uploaded on MoEF website on 19.06.2017. EAC was held on 24.08.2017. A four member team from MoEF-CC will visit the project site on 27th-29th Oct'2017. ADB has approved the PMC consultant (M/s AF Consultants, Switzerland in association with United Engineers Alliance India Ltd) and contract agreement has been signed recently.
- 9.5. Regarding the 24 MW Borpani Middle II Hydro Electric Project, the proposal was submitted to JICA and MNRE in 2015. Few observations made by JICA has been settled. The Chairman, APGCL has forwarded a DO letter to Director (Japan and North America), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi to expedite the process of JICA assistance. APGCL received approval for Rupees One Crore for infrastructure development in the financial year 2017-18.
- 9.6. The maximum peak demand met by AEGCL in 2017 is 1714 MW. A number of T&T Projects are in progress under different funding schemes like NLCPR, NEC, TDF (GOA), Annual Plan Fund, ADB Fund, NERPSIP Projects and PSDF. AEGCL informed that 220 KV Salakati – Rangia Line is expected to be commissioned by March 2018. The 132 KV Kukurmara – Azara line, 132kv Agia - Hatsingimari line are expected to be commissioned in the coming months.

Shri S.C. Das, Hon'ble Member, AERC observed that AEGCL should provide specific dates for completion of each project and ensure that the project are completed within scheduled timeframe given the transmission capacity constraints in the state.
- 9.7. The Kamakhya Grid GIS Station is expected to become operational within January 2018.
- 9.8. The SAMAST (Scheduling, Accounting, Metering and Settlement of Transactions in Electricity) project implemented by NERLDC through PSDF is at a nascent

stage and DPR is being prepared. The Commission requested AEGCL to expedite the implementation of the project keeping in mind the interests of Assam.

- 9.9. APDCL informed that once SCADA works in Guwahati city is completed, APDCL would be able to reduce the line faults and improve the quality of power. 67 towns have been declared go live and system improvement works have been completed in 63 towns out of 67 towns. Remaining towns including Guwahati are to be completed by March'2018.

The Hon'ble Commission directed that APDCL should start monitoring the loss levels as one of the main objective of R-APDRP was to reduce AT&C losses to below 15%. Since monitoring of meter reading, billing and collection will become possible on almost real time basis from multiple locations, APDCL should begin the process without further delay.

It was informed that APDCL is planning to take up monitoring of AT&C losses, as envisaged. The Company would be requiring the information on AT&C losses as it is contemplating to outsource metering, billing including maintenance of the lines in some towns registering high losses over the years.

- 9.10. The Government of India launched the Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) for Strengthening of sub-transmission & distribution networks in urban areas, metering of distribution transformers / feeders / consumers in the urban areas and IT enablement in the distribution sector. R-APDRP has now been subsumed within IPDS. 88 numbers of Statutory towns has been covered under this Scheme out of which 62 towns are already covered under R-APDRP scheme and remaining 26 towns are new towns. DPR cost is Rs 582 Crores.
- 9.11. It was informed that around 23,000 prepaid meters were procured by APDCL and 15,000 are yet to be installed. The Company has taken up saturation projects in Jorhat and Dibrugarh districts to finish the stocks available.
- 9.12. APDCL informed that the Smart Grid Pilot Project is under implementation at Guwahati and for faster execution of smart metering in the State, the Government of India has already procured 10 lakh smart meters.
- 9.13. Work is in progress under DDUGJY scheme. 240 villages are yet to be electrified and APDCL targets to complete these by December 2017. Intensification works have been completed in 3471 nos. of villages. Households electrified till 31.03.2017 stood at 31 Lakhs.
- 9.14. Regarding the Prime Minister Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya), it was informed that the target date for completion of the scheme is December 2018. Assam is one of the first 10 beneficiaries of the scheme where a large section of households are yet to be electrified. Since, the target fixed for completion of the scheme is extremely steep, APDCL may have to allot the works to the existing

contractors in a transparent manner and extend their scope of work within the ambit of the Soubhagya Guidelines. APDCL informed that the States are expected to receive 20% of the earmarked funds within the next 2-3 months.

ACTION: APDCL/NERLDC/GOA

10) Agenda Item No.10:

Status of Demand Side Management & Energy Efficiency Initiatives by APDCL.

The following points were brought to the notice of the members.

- 10.1. APDCL has signed an MoU with Bureau of Energy Efficiency, BEE to implement demand side measures to enhance the efficiency in the state. Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) was nominated as the implementing agency from BEE to carry a survey and advice measures to minimize the crisis.
- 10.2. A Load research survey was conducted in the State and all category of consumers were taken into account. It was found that Domestic category consumes more than 70% electricity, followed by commercial and industrial categories.
- 10.3. Based on the outcome of the survey, an action plan was prepared to meet the potential saving by using highly efficient LED lights and appliances.
- 10.4. APDCL introduced DELP i.e distribution of 7W LED bulbs to domestic consumers. The bulbs were distributed at a price of Rs 100 to the consumers against the price of Rs. 250-300 for the same wattage available in the market. It is estimated that nearly 15 MUs of energy is saved through the use of the 7W LED bulbs under DELP
- 10.5. Susequently, APDCL signed a MoU with EESL to distribute 9 W LED bulbs, 20W LED TL & 50W efficient Fans. The prices of these appliances are Rs. 70, Rs. 220 & Rs. 1200 respectively

11) Agenda Item No-11:

Development of RE projects including solar in the State of Assam

During the course of the presentation, the following points were brought to the notice of the Forum:

- 11.1. The total target for installation of Solar rooftop capacity for Assam upto the year 2022-22 is 250 MW.
- 11.2. A number of projects – grid interactive, Off –grid, Standalone Solar Street Light System, Centralised Solar Lantern Charging Station, Standalone LED Based Solar Wind Hybrid Steet Light etc have been commissioned under Annual Plan

2012-13 onwards of the Government of Assam which will benefit various parts of the State.

- 11.3. The draft Assam Solar Policy, 2017 is under final stage of formulation and is expected to be notified shortly.
- 11.4. There are a few Small Hydro Power and solar Plants in pipeline and also a 50 MW Wind based power plant in Karbi Anglong.

12) Any other matter:

A presentation by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) was made regarding the Energy efficiency initiatives undertaken by them in the State.

No other matter came up for discussion.

The meeting ended with a “Vote of Thanks” to and from the chair.

Sd/-

(Naba Kumar Das)
Chairperson

Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission

ANNEXURE- I

**List of members, special invitees and officers present in the meeting of the
Coordination Forum held on 24th October, 2017 at Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati.**

1. Shri Naba Kumar Das, IAS (Retd), Chairperson, AERC
2. Shri Dipak Chakravarty Member, AERC
3. Shri Subhash Ch. Das, Member, AERC
4. Shri B.S Roy, Asst. GM, NERLDC/POSOCO, Shillong
5. Shri P.G Saha, Director, APPDCL
6. Shri K. Baruah, MD, APGCL
7. Shri O.K. Murukadas, GM (Proj.), NTPC, Bongaigaon
8. Shri Puru Gupta, MD, APDCL
9. Shri Utpala Saikia, Joint Secretary, Power Department, Govt. of Assam
10. Shri A.Khaund, GM, GAIL
11. Shri D.Choudhury, Sr. Manager, GAIL
12. Prof(Dr) Anil Kumar Goswami
13. Shri K.C. Barman, DGM
14. Shri P.J Sharma, AGM, Powergrid
15. Shri A.K. Basumatary, DGM, Powergrid
16. Shri Somiran Das, CM, Powergrid
17. Shri R. Kumar, ED, NHPC, Itanagar
18. Shri Satyajit Ganguly, MD, OTPC
19. Shri Abhinandan Goswami, OTPC
20. Shri A.K. Sinha, GM-HM, ONGC
21. Shri S. Kar, DGM, ONGC
22. Shri Dr. A.K Misra, Director, AEDA
23. Shri Surjya Tamuli, DGM (TS), Assam Gas Company
24. Shri Abhijit Barooah, Co-Chairman, CII
25. Shri Bhaskar Goswami, Sr. Manager, NEEPCO
26. Shri H.N. Abashi, DGM(E), ONGC, Delhi
27. Shri S. Kalita, MD, AEGCL
28. Shri Bijoy Mohan Saikia, GM(TRC), APDCL
29. Shri Reza Mahmud, AGM
30. Shri Kamlesh Ch. Sarma, GM, RAPDRP
31. Shri Krishna Sarma, DGM, APDCL
32. Shri Dhruvajyoti Hazarika, GM(Com-Rev.)
33. Shri Dilip Kr. Saikia, CGM(PP&D), APDCL
34. Shri Antara Baruah, CGM(HRC)

35. Shri J.P Choudhury, DGM(NRE)
36. Shri Amulya Mahanta, AGM, APDCL
37. Shri J.Sarma, APGCL
38. Shri T.N Sarma, AEGCL
39. Shri J.K Baishya, Director, PMU, APDCL
40. Shri Deepak Kumar Das, DGM, PIU
41. Shri Chandrasmita Talukdar, DM, AEGCL
42. Shri M.Dasgupta, CGM (F&A), APDCL
43. Shri R.Choudhury, DGM (Com-T), APDCL
44. Shri N.H Choudhury, AGM (NRE), APDCL
45. Shri S.Goswami, GM(RE), APDCL
46. Shri Rupam Baruah, CGM(RE), APDCL
47. Shri A. Zaman, AMA, APGCL
48. Shri Guna Ram Saikia, APDCL
49. Shri A.K.Goswami, APDCL
50. Shri Ranjit Das, Dy. Manager, APDCL
51. Shri Gunajit K.Bhuyan, AGM, AEGCL
52. Shri Pritu K.Patsiri, Engg., EE&L
53. Shri Madhujya Mahanta, Engg, EESL
54. Shri Dipesh Ch.Das, AGM, SLDC, AEGCL
55. Shri Pranab Jyoti Das, Dy. CE-GMS
56. Shri Sudipta Goswami, GM

Officers of AERC

1. Shri S.K Roy, Secretary
2. Shri A.N. DevChoudhury, Joint Director (Tariff)
3. Shri Gunajit Sarma, Deputy Director (Engg)
4. Shri Alik Purkayastha, Deputy Director (Finance)
5. Ms. P.Sharma, Sr. Consultant
6. Shri Sanjib Tamuli, Consultant
7. Shri Nipen Deka, Consultant
8. Shri Jayjeet Bezbaruah, Consultant