

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1434
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2023

CLARIFICATION REGARDING FUNCTIONING OF CERC AND APTEL

1434 SHRI P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of **POWER** be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons as to why Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) Members are acting detrimental to the interest of Distribution companies and the interest of southern states by not declaring transmission lines as national assets despite directions issued by the Ministry on 30th may, 2022;
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken cognisance of the fact that CERC does not have representation from the Southern States especially Tamil Nadu thereby neglecting the interests of the Southern region and that biased CERC orders are leading to heavy losses to the State Governments; and
- (c) the steps taken to fill up the judicial vacancies, staff members and infrastructure issues in Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL)?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) : Ministry of Power vide letter dated 30.05.2022 (enclosed at **Annexure**) had requested CERC to consider transmission charges of all HVDC inter-regional links under National Component provided there is certain quantum of bi-directional power flow through the concerned HVDC inter-regional link, in consultation with stakeholders including POSOCO (Now Grid-India), CEA and CTU. In this regard, CERC is in the process of finalizing draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of Inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses) (Third Amendment) Regulations 2023, which has been published on 12.06.2023, proposing sharing of transmission charges of all inter-regional HVDC Transmission Systems under 'National Component' based on bi-directional flow of power in HVDC Transmission Systems.

(b) : Chairperson and Members of CERC are appointed as per relevant provisions of Electricity Act, 2003. CERC takes decisions safeguarding consumers' interest and keeping in view the national perspective. Equal opportunities are given to all the stakeholders including Southern region States during the course of drafting of regulations and in petitions filed before the Commission.

(c) : One post of Technical Member (Electricity) is vacant w.e.f. 29.11.2021 and one post of Judicial Member is vacant w.e.f. 04.12.2022 in APTEL. The process for filling up of both the vacancies is under process. As regards, the other vacant positions in APTEL, the process for filling up the vacancies is under process in APTEL. Vacancy circular for the post of Judicial Member was issued on 29.4.2022. As required, the Search-cum-selection Committee was notified on 2.12.2022. The Committee has shortlisted some candidates to be interacted after certain mandatory clearances.

APTEL is having its rented office premises in Delhi and have sufficient infrastructure for running the court proceedings.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1434 ANSWERED IN THE RAJYA SABHA ON 01.08.2023

**No.2/5/2022-Trans
Government of India
Ministry of Power
Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi**

Dated: 30th May, 2022

To,

Secretary,
Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
3 rd& 4 th Floor, Chanderlok Building,
36, Janpath, New Delhi – 110001

Sub: Declaration of Raigarh-Pugalur-Trissur HVDC line as National Component

Sir,

I am directed to say that references have been received from Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Tamilnadu on declaration of ± 800 kV, 6000 MW Raigarh – Pugalur-Thrissur HVDC transmission system (4000 MW terminal at Pugalur and 2000 MW at Thrissur) as National & Strategic Component and transmission charges for the system to be shared under “National Component” as per CERC (Sharing of Transmission Charges and Losses) Regulation 2020.

2. The matter has been examined in the Ministry in consultation with Central Transmission Utility of India (CTUIL) and Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO). It has been observed that

(i) As per existing CERC (Sharing of Transmission Charges and Losses) Regulation 2020, transmission charges of all HVDC back to back substations are under National Component and shared by Designated Interstate Transmission Customers (DICs). For HVDC links, 70% of the charges is under Regional component and are shared by Regional beneficiaries and 30% under National Component, and shared by all beneficiaries, except for following 2 links, where 100% charges are under National Component:

- Biswanath-Chariali/Alipurduar-Agra HVDC transmission system
- Mundra-Mahendragarh 2500 MW HVDC transmission system corresponding to 1005 MW capacity

ii) As per existing CERC Sharing Regulations 2020, 70% transmission charges for Raigarh-Pugalur-Thrissur system is under Regional Component and 30% is under National Component.

iii) ± 800 kV, 6000 MW Raigarh – Pugalur-Thrissur HVDC transmission system (4000 MW terminal at Pugalur and 2000 MW at Thrissur along with 5 ac links) was planned to facilitate direct interconnection between pit head generating stations in Chhattisgarh and load centres in Southern Region and primarily meant for supply power to Southern Region. 4 poles of Raigarh-Pugalur were commissioned from Sept 2020- Oct 2021, whereas 2 poles of Pugalur-Thrissur were commissioned from March 2021-June 2021.

iv) Power flow pattern through this link from April 2021-March 2022 is enclosed. During the period, power flow from Western Region (WR) to Southern Region (SR) is at 64%, while power flow from SR to WR is 36%. With the commissioning of more RE generating Stations in Southern Region, power from SR to WR may also increase.

3. Thus.c Raigarh – Pugalur-Thrissur HVDC transmission system is benefitting both WR and SR. Therefore, it appears that there is a case for considering the above transmission system under "National Component" as per CERC (Sharing of Transmission Charges and Losses) Regulations 2020. However, considering that there are other inter-regional HVDC links, it will be prudent to consider any HVDC link under National component as per CERC Sharing Region 2020.

4. Accordingly, CERC is requested to consider transmission charges of all HVDC inter-regional links under National Component [100% transmission charges to be borne by all Designated Inter State Transmission Customers], provided that

i) There is certain quantum of bi-directional power flow through the concerned HVDC inter-regional link

ii) The quantum of bi-direction power flow [for considering 100% of transmission charges of the link under National Component] may be decided by CERC in consultation with stakeholders including POSOCO, CEA and CTU.

5. This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,
-sd-

(Bihari Lal)
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