

“System Operation Report finds full endorsement from State Governments and State Regulators”

Secretary (Power), Shri Anil Razdan chaired a meeting of State Regulators, State Power Secretaries and State Utilities to consider the implementation of Report of the Committee on Manpower, Certification and Incentives for System Operation and Ring Fencing Load Despatch Centres at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 07th October 2008. The meeting was also attended by Shri Gireesh B. Pradhan, Additional Secretary (Power), Government of India, Shri Rakesh Nath, Chairperson Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Shri Anil Kumar, Additional Secretary, Government of India and Shri V. Ramakrishna, Member (PS), CEA, CMD Power Grid, CMD BBMB, representatives from Central Public Sector Undertakings, DG, National Power Training Institute, DG, Central Power Research Institute, Secretary, CERC and senior officials of the Ministry of Power.

Secretary (Power) emphasised the need for secure, reliable and economic system operation strengthening of Load Despatch Centres was required. The time had come to create an environment where the Load Despatch Centres had functional autonomy, independent and sustainable revenue stream, adequately staffed with technical personnel having the right skills equipment and incentives to a rapidly changing multi supplier multi consumer scenario. He stated that the Report was a timely one and its implementation needed to be put on fast track.

The Report of the Committee, chaired by Shri Gireesh B. Pradhan, Additional Secretary, was submitted to the Government in August 2008. Shri Lokesh Chandra, Director (Transmission), Government of India who was the Member Secretary of the Committee gave a brief presentation on the Committee Report before the delegates.

There was a consensus and endorsement of the recommendations of the Committee's Report. Some of the States requested that a Central Government sponsored scheme should be put in place to provide financial assistance to the SLDCs. After discussions a detailed action plan with timelines was finalised to ensure completion of activities by March 2009. The action plan includes among other things preparation of a separate audited balance sheet and profit and loss account for SLDCs, preparation of rolling CAPEX plans for upgradation of LDCs, segregation of revenue stream for LDCs into fees and charges, ULDC tariff, open access, consultancy charges and other incomes, training and certification of System Operators in the country and establishment of awards for best LDCs and Load Despatcher.

Three Task Forces were constituted for effective monitoring and implementation of the recommendations of the Committee. The first Task Force for Implementation of the Report would be chaired by Member, CEA and co-chaired by Joint Secretary (O&M), Ministry of Power and ED (NLDC), Power Grid, Chief Engineer (Grid Management), CEA and representatives from the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Tamil Nadu would be the Members. Director (OM), Ministry of Power would be the Member Secretary of the Task Force. Further States were requested to appoint an officer in-charge, preferably the Secretary (Energy / Power) for implementation of the recommendation of the Committee.

The second Task Force for examining the Financial Aspects and Emoluments Issues would be chaired by CMD, Power Finance Corporation and Director (Finance), Power Grid, Secretary (Power), Haryana, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka, MD Transco Gujarat would be Members and Secretary CERC would be Member Secretary of the Task Force.

The third Task Force on Manpower Selection and Recruitment would have Chairperson, CEA as Chairman of the Task Force, representative from Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission, Secretary Energy, Government of Delhi as Members and Joint Secretary (Administration), Ministry of Power will be the Member Secretary.

The Committee Report is available on the Ministry of Power website <http://www.powermin.nic.in>