

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

PRESENT: Shri. C. Balakrishnan, Chairman
 Shri. C. Abdulla, Member
 Shri. M.P.Aiyappan, Member

Date : October 6, 2008

Petition OP No.4/2008	Kerala State Electricity Board	Petitioner
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In the matter of
Restricting Power supply to all LT consumers in the State

ORDER

1. Kerala State Electricity Board filed a petition on 9-9-2008 for introducing power restrictions to LT consumers in the State. The Commission in its meeting held on 9-9-2008, accepted the petition as OP No. 4/2008 and directed KSEB to publish the matter for inviting objections from the stakeholders and a public hearing was scheduled for 29-9-2008 at Thiruvananthapuram.
2. In the petition KSEB stated that considering the reservoir position, the hydel availability would be only 16 MU per day. The availability of energy from central generating stations had fallen to the level of 16 MU in August, 2008. However, the consumption during the coming months may increase to a level of 52.77 MU per day in the unrestricted situation and to about 49 MU with restrictions. KSEB estimated a short fall of about 4.74 MU to 7.29 MU per day from September to December, 2008 and about 8.08 to 13.81 MU per day during January to March 2009.
3. To tide over the situation, KSEB proposed restrictions to LT domestic consumers by limiting the consumption to 5 units per day at normal tariff

and above 150 units per month shall be charged at weighted average cost of additional purchase at marginal cost principles. In the case of LT IV, VI (except LT VI-D), and LT VII, power consumption to be restricted to 75% of the previous year's consumption. KSEB also proposed to introduce one hour cyclic load shedding from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. With the above restrictions KSEB expected to reduce the energy requirement to the tune of 5.14 MU per day.

Public Hearing on the matter

4. A Public hearing was held at the Institution of Engineers Hall, Thiruvananthapuram to elicit the views of the stakeholders and public on the matter. 50 persons representing, Licensees, HT-EHT, and LT consumers in the State participated in the hearing. Representatives of HT-EHT consumers including those of Industrial Trade Unions stressed that all consumers should be treated equally and restrictions if any should be made applicable to all consumers uniformly. Further they mentioned that large section of the LT consumers have been excluded in the present proposal by KSEB. They also pointed out that while estimating the actual requirement of energy for LT consumers loss allocation should be done in a fair manner. They demanded that the power restrictions to HT-EHT consumers should be reduced immediately. Representatives of LT industrial consumers requested that day time load shedding should not be made applicable to them. Kerala Water Authority, represented by its Member (Accounts) stated that KWA may be exempted from the load shedding, as the restrictions would affect the functioning of KWA. Representatives of domestic consumers pointed out that, KSEB has to improve the productivity and efficiency and restrictions may not be made applicable to them. Similar opinions were voiced by representatives of other consumer categories.

Analysis of the Commission

5. The Commission considered the proposal and the views expressed by the Consumers. As per the estimates of the Commission the shortages would be to the tune of about 20% now considering the present inflow and energy availability from central generating stations. As seen from the Daily System Statistics Reports of KSEB, the present storage level is almost same as that of 2004. However, the rainfall and daily inflow pattern is a matter of concern. In the previous years, during this period the daily inflow was about 16 MU in 2004, 17 MU in 2005, 20 MU in 2006 and about 48 MU in 2007. However, the present inflow is only in the range of 8 to 10 MU per day. If such situation continues, future availability of hydro energy would be a problem. The Commission also noted that the availability of energy from central generating stations have improved in the last few days.
6. The Commission is of the view that, the burden of shortage should be shared by all categories of consumers. Similar opinions have been expressed by many consumers also. The Commission in its Interim Order dated 24-7-2008 had introduced 25% power restrictions to HT-EHT consumers as an interim measure to address the shortage situation. The Commission reviewed the power position in the month of September, 2008 and after considering the views of the Board and consumers decided to continue the power restrictions. The Commission also had directed KSEB to file proposal for implementation of power restrictions to LT consumers, if required.
7. Accordingly, KSEB filed this petition for introduction of power restrictions to LT consumers also. KSEB has proposed to limit the consumption of LT

Domestic to 150 units per month, introduction of power restriction to LT IV industrial and LT VI (except LT VI –D), and LT VII to the tune of 25%. Further, KSEB also proposed to introduce one hour cyclic load shedding during day time. After considering the views expressed by the consumers and assessing the present position, the Commission orders as follows:

Order of the Commission

8. Power restriction shall be introduced to LT Domestic consumers. The monthly consumption shall be restricted to 200 Units instead of 150 units as proposed by KSEB. Any consumer under domestic category who consumes more than 200 units per month shall be charged at the actual cost of additional power purchase on a monthly basis, as fixed by the Commission.
9. Power restrictions shall be imposed to all LT II, LT IV, LT VI [except LT VI(D)], and LT VII categories to the tune of 20%. The quota shall be fixed as 80% of the average monthly consumption of the previous year (2007-08). In the case of new consumers, the average consumption shall be 50 units per kW per month and the quota shall be worked out accordingly. Consumption over and above the quota fixed shall be charged at the actual cost of additional purchase on a monthly basis as fixed by the Commission.
10. The power restrictions to the tune of 25% imposed on HT-EHT consumers vide order dated 24-7-2008 shall be reduced to 20% with effect from 15-10-2008.
11. No Fuel Surcharge is applicable for the consumption above the quota fixed and consumption in excess of 200 units per month in the case of domestic consumers.

12. The Commission shall review the power restrictions imposed as and when necessary.

13. The Order shall be effective from 15-10-2008.

14. The petition is disposed off accordingly.

Sd/-
M.P.Aiyappan
Member (F)

Sd/-
C. Abdulla
Member (E)

Sd/-
C. Balakrishnan
Chairman

Approved for issue

Sd/-
Secretary in charge