TATA POWER

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TPTCL'S E-NEWS LETTER

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Tata Power Trading Company Limited (TPTCL)

Lighting up Lives!

Power Market News

States' outstanding dues to Gencos halved to Rs 61,025 crore in July 2023

Total outstanding dues of States to Generating Companies (Gencos) have reduced to half within over a year, post implementation of Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules, 2022, the Power Ministry said. The current outstanding dues stand at Rs. 61,025 crore, which were at Rs. 1,20,540 crore in June last year. "The total outstanding dues of States towards Generating Companies reported on PRAAPTI Portal which were at Rs. 1,20,540 Cr. as on 03.06.2022 have been reduced to Rs. 61,025 Cr. as on 24.07.2023 with timely payment of twelve (12) Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs)," a statement from the ministry read.

Union Minister of New Renewable Energy & Power, R. K. Singh, in a written reply to Lok Sabha, said that the distribution companies are also paying their current dues promptly to avoid regulations under the rule. However, some State Generating Companies have sought working capital assistance from Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) for procurement of coal pending realization of their dues.

REC has already provided loan assistance to various utilities for this purpose and the PFC has a policy in place that allows the sanction of short-term loans to state power plants to purchase coal, the minister said. Further mentioning the current figures of coal stock in India, the Power ministry' statement said that there is currently no shortage of coal in State Sector Plants.

"As of 31st March 2023, the coal stock available at 180 Domestic Coal Based (DCB) plants was 34.6 Million Ton (MT). On 17th July 2023, it was reported to be 33.4 MT. These stocks are sufficient to run the plants for an average of 13 days at 85 percent Plant Load Factor (PLF)." "Similarly, the coal stock at 57 State Sector Plants as of 17th July 2023 was 9.6 MT, which is sufficient to operate these plants for an average of 10 days at 85 percent PLF," said the statement.

The Power Ministry has taken several measures to ensure smooth coal supply to power plants for uninterrupted power generation. An Inter-Ministerial Sub-Group comprising representatives from various ministries and companies regularly meets to make operational decisions to enhance coal supply to thermal power plants. Revised coal stocking norms mandate power plants to maintain sufficient stock at all times for any contingent situation.

In addition, various power utilities have imported coal considering their requirements and cost economics. The Railways have also made arrangements for the net induction of coalcarrying wagons, significantly increasing the transportation capacity for coal. Furthermore, the captive coal mine production target for Financial Year 2023-24 has been set at 141 million tonnes to ensure sufficient coal supply.

Earlier in November, 2022, the power ministry had stated that with the implementation of Electricity (LPS and Related Matters) Rules, 2022, remarkable improvement has been seen in recovery of outstanding dues of Suppliers including Generating Companies, Transmission Companies and Traders. The PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators), portal was launched in May 2018, to bring in transparency in power-purchase transactions between generators and discoms. ***Source***

Hindustan Power Exchange gets CERC nod for high price contracts in three key markets

Hindustan Power Exchange (HPX) on said it has received power regulator CERC's approval to introduce high price electricity contracts in three key markets. The move comes as a part of Central Electricity

Regulatory Commission's (CERC) efforts to enhance market dynamics, deepen the market, and provide more opportunities for members to manage their risk and optimize their energy portfolios.

"HPX has got approval from CERC for the introduction of high price contracts in three key markets: High Price Day Ahead Market (HP-DAM), High Price Term Ahead Market (HP-TAM), and High Price Contingency Contracts," the company said in a statement. As a part of this development, HPX will now offer these contracts in the high price day ahead market and high price term ahead market segments. The high price contingency contracts will provide added stability to the energy market during periods of volatility.

The HP-DAM pricing has been established with a floor price of zero to mitigate any adverse impact on the integration of renewable energy in the national grid. "Simultaneously, the forbearance price has been set at ₹20/kWh as per the Commission's order dated 31.03.2023 in Petition 4/SM/2023 (Suo-Motu)," it added.

With the fresh alternative of HP-TAM, these high price generators can plan for sale of their power to interested beneficiaries under longer term contracts of up to 90 days, the company said. This would give them an opportunity to secure fuel supply in advance and plan their operations basis the underlying contracts, moving away from the sole dependency on clearance in the DAM segment, it added.

"With the CERC nod to introduce High Price contracts on HPX, we have been successful in delivering two new products for the Power Market within a short time-span of just one year of starting our business operations in July last year. Till date these high-price generators had just one option to sell power, that is through participation in the HP-DAM segment. With these new segments the generators can plan their power sale to interested buyers for up to 90 days, giving HP-generators sufficient clarity to plan their fuel procurement, logistics etc," Naveen Singh, Vice President & Head, Business Development, Hindustan Power Exchange, said. "This also ensures a level playing field across different market segments, gives more choice to the consumers and promotes competition," he added. ***Source***

India To Meet 76% Electricity Requirement In 2023-24 From Thermal Power Plants

India will meet 75.66 per cent of electricity requirement of 1,750 billion units in fiscal 2023- 24 from thermal power plants, the government told parliament. "The electricity generation programme has been fixed at 1,750 BU for the year 2023-2024. 75.66 per cent of electricity would be generated from thermal power plant with an average plant load factor (PLF or capacity utilisation) of 66.90 per cent," stated Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh in a written reply to Lok Sabha. Further, he also informed the House that there is adequate capacity available in the country to meet the rising demand of power with projected energy surplus of 56,796 million units (3.6 per cent) and peak surplus of 1,717 MW (0.7 per cent) in 2023-24. In order to increase the power generation capacity in the country, 18 coal based thermal power projects having total capacity of 25,440 MW, one gas-based thermal power project with 370 MW capacity and 42 hydro-electric projects (above 25 MW) having total capacity of 18,033.5 MW (as on 30th June 2023) are under construction in the country, he informed the House. He also stated that nuclear capacity totalling 8,000 MW is under various stages of construction. Singh explained that there is adequate capacity available in the country to meet the rising demand of power with projected energy surplus of 56,796 MU (3.6 per cent) and peak surplus of 1,717 MW (0.7 per cent) in the year 2023-24. During April-June 2023 period, 4,07,762 million units of electricity was supplied against the demand of 4,08,621 million units leaving a deficit of 858 million units or 0.2 per cent, the minister said in another written reply to the House. There is adequate availability of electricity in the country. There is a negligible gap between energy requirement and energy supplied on account of factors attributable to discoms such as constraints in distribution network, financial constraints, commercial reasons etc., Singh stated. ***Source***

CEA Releases New Norms For Forecasting Power Demand

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has released its latest medium- and long-term power demand forecast guidelines. It said that the central agency had been carrying out the demand forecast of the country for medium-term and long-term periods through Electric Power Surveys (EPS) periodically to bring out National Electricity Plan (NEP). The new guidelines of the CEA was published today at its official website.

The institution said demand forecast was essential for power procurement planning and investment in the power sector. The new CEA guidelines has chalked out specific timelines and modalities for long-term and medium-term power demand forecast. It said that at least long-term forecasts should be for the next ten years. It also said that the detailed power demand forecasting exercise should be reviewed on a yearly basis and updated, if required.

The new norms also talked about making the demand forecast at a more granular level, ideally at the discom or state level. “The forecasts should be at least prepared at the DISCOM/State level. In addition, forecast at more granular levels i.e. Zonal level, Circle level, District level, Sub-Station Level, Feeder/Transformer level, should also be carried out in case of availability of adequate granular level data. Such granular forecasts would be more useful in power infrastructure planning,” the document read.

It also added that the forecast should be worked out year-wise at least. “In addition, monthwise/day-wise/hour-wise/time-block-wise forecasts should also be done if adequate granular level data is available,” it said. It also said that the forecast should be carried out in at least three scenarios-Optimistic scenarios, Business As Usual (BAU) scenario, and Pessimistic scenario.

The proposed guidelines by the CEA said that considering government policies on such forecasts was also important and needed to be accounted for long-term power demand forecasts. “The long-term forecast should also be ideally based on the assessment of the impact of specific government policies, developmental plans, and other emerging aspects in the definite quantum of electrical energy in addition to past growth trends. However, if such assessments are not feasible beyond the medium-term horizon, then the long-term forecast should be based on further extrapolation of the growth trends estimated under the mediumterm period,” the new CEA guidelines said.

It also advocated for taking the three-year preceding the year as the base year for forecasting. “The base year for the forecast should ideally be taken as the three-year (T-3) preceding the year during which the forecast exercise is being carried out. This is to be done to test the performance of the forecasting model by comparing the forecast results obtained for (T-2) and (T-1) years with actual available data (termed as Out of Sample Validation),” the document said. ***Source***

Power consumption grows marginally by 1.8 pc to 407.76 bn units in Apr-Jun quarter

Power consumption grew marginally by 1.8 per cent year-on-year to 407.76 billion units in the April-June quarter, mainly due to unseasonal rains, the Biparjoy cyclone and heavy Monsoon downpours, according to the government data. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) data showed that the power consumption was 400.44 billion units (BU) in the AprilJune quarter in 2022 and recorded a growth of 17.6 per cent compared to 340.37 BU in the same period of 2021.

The peak power demand rose to 223.23 GW in April-June 2023 from 215.88 GW in the same period in 2022. It was 193.99 GW in April-June 2021. Thus, the peak power demand growth has remained subdued in the first quarter of the current fiscal. The power ministry earlier estimated the country's electricity

demand to touch 229 GW during the summer. But, it did not reach the projected level in April-June this year due to unseasonal rains, the Biparjoy cyclone and heavy Monsoon downpours.

The ministry has taken various steps to avoid outages due to supply constraints. It has asked imported coal-based power plants to run at full capacity. It has also directed coal-based plants to import dry fuel for blending to avoid any shortage. Rains reduced the demand for electricity as people used fewer cooling appliances during April-June 2023 compared to the previous year, say industry experts.

According to the latest Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data, electricity generation in the April-May period contracted by 0.1 compared to a growth of 17.4 per cent in the same period in 2022. Power generation growth remained almost flat at 0.9 per cent in May and contracted by 1.1 per cent in April this year, showed the IIP data. The power generation also contracted in March this year by 1.6 per cent. However, it grew by 8.2 per cent in February and 12.7 per cent in January, as per the IIP data. The IIP data showed the impact of rains on power generation as well, which also led to subdued growth of electricity consumption in the country during the first quarter of this fiscal. ***Source***

Southern States logged peak power demand in summer

VIJAYAWADA: All States in the Southern region have registered the highest peak demand and maximum energy met in May/June-2023, Special Chief Secretary (energy) K Vijayanand and chairman of Southern Region Power Committee (SRPC) said on Saturday. Presiding over the 47th SRPC meeting in Visakhapatnam, he said the Southern Regional Grid delivered power as per the expectations of the consumers even as the delay in the onset of the South-West monsoon has tested their resilience.

During the meeting, the SRPC agreed to write a letter to the Ministry of Power recommending the implementation of an order dated December 6, 2022, for getting transmission charges from the Central pool for intra-state lines carrying interstate power.

The SRPC also requested Central Transmission Utility India Ltd (CTUIL) to take up an urgent listing of the case relating to the relinquishment of the corridor in the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) by engaging a senior counsel as it involves the collection of hundreds of crores of rupees from Independent Power Producers.

The SRPC chairman advised power utilities to focus on the common issues impacting their operational and commercial performances to get an amicable solution and to seek necessary guidance from the SRPC secretariat for integrated, secured and reliable operations of the Southern Grid. ***Source***

India achieved its target of producing energy through non-fossil fuel sources ahead of schedule: R K Singh

Union minister R K Singh said that India has achieved its target of producing 43.6 per cent of its total energy through non-fossil fuel sources nine years ahead of the schedule. The Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy was addressing the opening session of the G20 14th Clean Energy Ministerial meeting and 8th Mission Innovation meeting in Goa.

“India has already achieved the target of producing 43.6 per cent of its total energy through non-fossil fuel sources. The country has achieved nine years ahead of its schedule of 2030,” he said. India’s installed electricity capacity through non-fossil fuel sources is 183 gigawatts (GW), out of the total capacity of 421 GW. “We have 88 GW under installation and 55 GW tendered out. If you take the capacity which is installed and under installation, that comes to about 270 GW, which is well above 50 per cent of our service capacity,” he said. Singh said that India will add 50 GW every year.

The minister said that the world has already surpassed the challenge of climate change sceptics. “Those who said that there is nothing called global warming and it is all myth propagated by developed countries. Now, nobody says that because the effect of climate change is there for all of us to see,” he said. “We see the raging wildfires, increase in temperatures. Nobody has any doubt that climate change is real,” he added. Singh pointed out that India has the lowest per capita carbon emission in the world. “Our emission is 2.29 tonnes per capita per year. The global average is about 6.3 tonnes. The reason for that, partly, is the cultural factor,” the minister said.

Singh said that India venerates simplicity. “Our simple lifestyles are looked up to. Mahatma Gandhi adopted a dress which actually this country venerates, that is simplicity,” he said. “I am in politics. I can tell you that if I am showy, flashy, I will lose votes. Simplicity gains votes. Straightforwardness gets me votes,” he said.

The minister said that India is “very bullish and firm” on issues pertaining to the environment. “Our environmental laws are strict. If you plant a tree on your own land, you can’t cut it without permission,” he added. Talking about the Union government’s programmes, he said, “We have a programme for the industry that has resulted in emission reduction of 105 million tonnes of Carbon dioxide. We have Ujala programme reduction in 100 MT per annum of CO2.” “The star-rated appliances programme has resulted in emission reduction of 57 MT per annum…There is total emission reduction of 278 MT per tonnes that is besides the renewable,” he said. The minister praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the measures taken by his government for environment protection. ***Source***

India aims to trade electricity with Southeast Asia: Sources

India is considering trading power with Southeast Asian countries through Myanmar and Thailand, five sources briefed on the matter said, as New Delhi looks to use its growing renewables capacity to boost regional diplomatic engagement. The grid linkages, which an industry official said could take at least four years to complete, follow India's effort to begin trading power with Middle Eastern countries such as the United Arab Emirates.

The sources, who also include four power ministry officials, declined to be identified as the previously unreported plan has not been made public. Union power ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has been trying to promote closer political and economic ties with its neighbours, pushing back against China's growing regional influence. Indian energy officials are holding separate and group discussions with some countries on advancing regional power grid interconnections at ongoing Group of 20 (G20) ministerial meetings in the Indian state of Goa, the power ministry officials said.

Support from G20 members is seen as key to winning backing from bankers and developers in making investment decisions, one of the ministry officials said. India has engaged France's EDF to prepare a regulatory framework that would address key challenges including pricing, the industry official said. EDF is expected to complete the report by the end of this year, the official added. EDF did not immediately respond to a request for comment.
"Once we are able to connect India's national grid to Burma (Myanmar), we should be able to strengthen the grid there and further transmit to Thailand and even Asia's east," the industry official said. While cross-border grid linkages have drawn investment and government interest in regions from Europe to Southeast Asia, the rising cost of building subsea cables, surging prices of raw materials needed to upgrade grids and geopolitical tensions have raised questions about the viability of such projects.

Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have been trying for decades to form a regional grid to facilitate multilateral power trade, but progress has been limited to bilateral deals

between countries. India plans to boost its renewable and big hydropower capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, from 177 GW currently. Solar parks are expected to account for much of the new capacity. The effort could help ease fossil fuel dependence by making solar power available for more hours of the day, the ministry officials said.

Transmission charges on power supplied using an interconnected regional network is a key challenge, the second of the ministry officials said. Interconnections would be both under the sea and on land, with integration of renewable energy boosted by pooling resources from across the region, the same official added. India already exports some power to Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan along with very small amounts to Myanmar that would be stepped up massively under the new plan. ***Source***

India's peak power demand has shifted to daytime: Electricity Authority

India's peak power demand hours have shifted from evening to day time, according to Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The highest demand for this year, 223 GW (of capacity pressed into service, which occurred on June 9) happened at 3 pm, Prasad said, while speaking at an event on energy storage, at the 14th Clean Energy Ministerial Conference currently underway here.

Later, speaking, he said this was made possible by the 'feeder separation' exercise, under which separate cables carry power from solar plants to agricultural farms. Because of feeder separation, the agriculture load has shifted to day time, during solar hours, "which is very, very good" he said. However, there is still demand for green power during non-solar hours — that is where energy storage has a play, he said.

The CEA had recently mandated that all the electricity distribution companies (discoms) should do "resource adequacy mapping", to assess the demand for storage in the coming years. Alongside, the state and regional load despatch centres, would do a similar assessment exercise for one year. This would give a precise idea about the extent of storage capacity required.

On its part, the CEA, having made its own assessment, believes that the storage requirement will jump up from 2026-27 onwards. Accordingly, the CEA is trying to align its demand projection for storage to the demand projections for transmission. For example, in Ladakh, the plan is to build 13 GW of solar capacity, but the transmission infrastructure would be only for 5 GW — the rest would be handled by storage, Prasad said. ***Source***

India's power demand growth to slip in 2023 & 2024 from the high recorded in 2022

The rate of growth of power demand in India, which clocked an impressive 8.4 per cent y-oy in last calendar year, is expected to decline to 6.8 per cent and 6.1 per cent in 2023 and 2024, respectively. According to the latest report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the strong post-pandemic recovery, combined with intense heat waves, drove electricity demand up by 8.4 per cent in 2022.

"We expect the strong growth trend to continue in 2023, at a rate of 6.8 per cent. Growth of 6.1 per cent is forecast in 2024, by when India's electricity consumption is expected to surpass that of Japan and Korea combined," the report added. The rapidly increasing demand in India will continue to be driven by an uptick in household appliances, a rise in electrical machinery usage, an increase in electric vehicles, and further expansion in cooling systems.

Power generation

The IEA report pointed out that India's coal-fired generation recorded a 3.8 per cent increase in H1 2023, boosted by strong demand growth amid reduced hydro power output (fell by 8 per cent). With heat waves expected to cause surges in peak demand due to increased cooling, the government ordered coal plants to run at full capacity from March 16 to September 30 2023 to increase security of supply. This order is

expected to especially affect coal plants that use imported coal and were not operating at full capacity, it added.

“Solar generation also increased strongly in H1 2023 by 26 per cent compared to previous year. We forecast coal-fired generation in India for the full year to increase by 4.2 per cent, and to continue its increase in 2024, albeit at a slower pace of 2.5 per cent, as renewables and nuclear are expected to expand significantly to meet a higher share of the growing electricity demand,” it added.

Power deficit

The report said that the Central Electricity Authority’s (CEA) Load Generation Balance Report 2023-24, published in March 2023, estimates that sub-regions in India may face power supply deficits ranging from 4 per cent to 11.3 per cent of their respective peak demand. However, as each region is expected to experience its peak demand at different times, power imports and exports between regions would allow for some balancing, it added.

“The country as a whole is expected to have a surplus of only 0.7 per cent to meet the peak electricity demand (estimated at around 230 gigawatts), indicating a tight supply situation,” the report projected. India has installed significant solar generation capacities in recent years, which helps meet daytime peak demand for cooling. However, evening peaks when the sun does not shine but temperatures remain very high pose a significant challenge to the system.

In such evening hours, the sufficient availability of dispatchable capacities of hydro, coal- and gas-fired power plants becomes crucial. “New generation capacity additions in recent years have lagged behind the increase in peak power demand, leading the Ministry of Power in June 2023 to issue guidelines for Resource Adequacy Planning Framework for electricity to ensure that generation capacity is added at a pace matching growth in demand,” it said.

A new tariff scheme was also outlined, which introduces varying time-of-day tariffs between solar hours, normal hours and peak hours to incentivise the shifting of demand from the evening to daytime. The new tariffs are to come into effect during 2024 and 2025, it added. ***Source***

Ministry proposes CTU transfer to Grid Controller of India

The power ministry has proposed the transfer of ownership of the Central Transmission Utility of India (CTU), currently a subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd, to the Grid Controller of India. A proposal for the plan has been sent to the Cabinet, two sources said. The move has been planned to avoid a conflict of interest while awarding power transmission projects and to provide a level playing field to all the players bidding for such projects, one of the persons said.

The CTU's responsibility includes undertaking transmission of electricity through the interstate transmission system and related planning and coordination. It is also the nodal agency for grant of open access to inter-state transmission systems through grant of connectivity, medium term open access and long term access.

The Grid Controller of India, also under the Ministry of Power, operates India's electricity grid through the National Load Despatch Centre and five regional load despatch centres. "While bidding for transmission lines, Power Grid also participates, and they control the CTU which has the information on the projects but not the other companies," the person said. Power Grid and Grid Controller of India did not respond to e-mails sent by ET till the time of printing. ***Source***

Power Ministry to specify methodology for enhancing coal supply to certain coastal plants

The Power Ministry will specify the methodology for increasing coal supply to coastal power plants who signed their power purchase agreements (PPAs) under Section 63 of the Electricity Act. The issue relates to increasing the annual contracted quantity (ACQ) of coal supplied to thermal power plants (TPPs) on India's coast who have inked their PPAs under Section 63, which deals with determining the tariffs through a transparent bidding system.

In 2021, the government increased the ACQ of this category of coastal TPPs by up to 100 per cent of their normative requirement from the earlier fixed 70 per cent (fixed in 2008) due to increasing domestic availability of the crucial commodity. However, the issue is stuck as the Power Ministry has to work out a methodology to ensure that benefits accrued to the power plants as a result of the increase in ACQ are passed on to the consumers.

Committee's deliberations

Last month, the Coal Ministry's Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term) for power sector, met to discuss this issue. SLC (LT) deliberations stated that the decision in case of Section 63 PPAs of the coastal power plants has not been implemented by Coal India (CIL) for want of a methodology from the Power Ministry.

Ministry's recommendations

The representatives of the Power Ministry stated that the Ministry in May 2023 recommended a methodology for the Section 63 PPAs of Sembcorp Energy India (SEIL). However, this was countered by the representatives of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), who said that this is "actually not a methodology" and are the "comments of the CEA" in the matter of the PPAs of SEIL and therefore, the methodology recommended by the Power Ministry needs to be examined further.

It was discussed that since the Power Ministry is the authority for passing on the benefits in the case of PPAs, the matter should be examined by the ministry and a methodology should be issued. "In view of the discussions held, SLC (LT) recommended that Ministry of Power may take a final view on the methodology recommended by it for the case of coastal power plants having existing long term PPAs under Section 63 of the Electricity Act, so as to ensure that the benefits accrued to the power plants as a result of increase in ACQ is passed on to the consumers," the committee said. ***Source***

Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy Reviews Implementation of Inter State Electricity Transmission System in the Country

Against the backdrop of increasing renewable energy capacity in the country, Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy Shri R.K. Singh chaired a meeting in Jaipur, Rajasthan yesterday, July 13, 2023, to review the progress of Inter-State Transmission System in the country. The Inter-State Transmission System is instrumental in meeting electricity needs of citizens, by facilitating transfer of power from power-surplus to power deficit areas.

Referring to India's commitment to achieve the target of having 50% of installed electricity generation capacity from non-fossil sources by the year 2030, the Power Minister emphasized that development of associated transmission infrastructure is key to achieving this. By 2030, the country's installed power capacity is likely to grow to over 777 GW and the peak demand is slated to reach 335 GW. Given this, a comprehensive transmission plan to evacuate 537 GW of renewable energy capacity has been drawn

up, considering the renewable energy potential in different parts of the country. The plan was released by the Power Minister in December 2022.

In the review of the Inter-State Transmission System, Shri Singh focused on the progress of projects under planning and bidding phases and those under implementation. The bottlenecks being faced in project execution were deliberated in detail, based on which the Minister issued directions to resolve the issues for early project completion.

Shri Singh emphasized that the transmission planning should take into consideration the emerging requirements such as Green Hydrogen production; increase in conventional generation capacity to meet growing power demand; and offshore wind generation in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. He reviewed the Inter Sate Transmission Plan for key states rich in renewable energy, namely Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The Inter State and Intra State Transmission Plans for states in the North Eastern Region were also reviewed in detail, so as to meet the power demand of the region in 2030 while also evacuating power from upcoming hydro projects in the region. The Minister directed that the transmission plan should be dynamic and sensitive to changing needs of the sector. He impressed upon concerned departments that development of transmission infrastructure should be ahead of generation, so that there are no constraints in evacuating power.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary, Ministry of Power; Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority; and other key officials from the Central Transmission Utility, POWERGRID, REC, PFC and Ministry of Power. ***Source***

Govt mulls reimbursing GST compensation cess on coal utilised for gasification

The Coal Ministry said that it is considering a proposal which aims to reimburse the GST compensation cess on coal utilised for gasification projects by companies. Besides, the Ministry is also mulling a comprehensive scheme to promote coal/ lignite gasification projects for both public sector undertakings (PSUs) and the private sector with an outlay of ₹6,000 crore.

“The Ministry is considering an incentive to reimburse the goods and services tax (GST) compensation cess on coal utilised in gasification projects for a period of 10 years after the commercial operational date (COD), provided that the GST compensation cess is extended beyond FY27,” it said. This incentive aims to offset the inability of entities to claim input tax credit for the same, it added. The government on a mission mode is fast tracking utilisation of coal and has targeted to achieve 100 million tonnes (mt) of coal gasification by 2030.

Promoting coal gasification

Under the comprehensive scheme to promote coal and lignite-based gasification projects for the public and private sector companies, the selection of entities will be carried out through a competitive and transparent bidding process. Besides, the government is considering providing budgetary support to eligible PSUs and private sector, enabling them to undertake coal gasification projects.

“In first segment, the government will provide support to PSUs. The second segment encompasses both the private sector and PSUs, with a budget allocation granted to each project. The selection of at least one project under this segment will be determined through a tariff-based bidding process, with criteria formulated in consultation with NITI Aayog,” it added. The third segment involves the provision of budgetary support for demonstration projects utilising indigenous technology and/ or small-scale product-based gasification plants.

Surface coal gasification

In October 2022, for setting up four large scale coal-to-chemical projects through surface coal gasification route, Coal India signed three separate MoUs, one each, with Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL), Indian Oil Corporation and GAIL (India). In addition, NLC India is signing MoU with BHEL. To come up at an aggregated estimated cost of ₹35,000 crore, the proposed surface coal gasification (SCG) projects are planned to be set up in West Bengal, Odisha, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

"The CIL Board has accepted the pre-feasibility reports for three projects, which includes its subsidiaries Eastern Coalfields Ltd , Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd and Western Coalfields Ltd and has approved the initiation of pre-project activities, such as topography survey, soil investigation and water availability studies. Tendering activities are also being undertaken to arrive at firm prices required for the preparation of a detailed feasibility report for the respective projects," the Ministry informed.

The CIL Board has also given 'in-principle' approval for the formation of joint ventures as envisaged above. Currently, negotiation and finalisation of the joint venture agreement are in progress, it added. BHEL has conducted pilot studies with their pressurised fluidised bed combustion technology and customised it to suit the requirements of high-ash Indian coal. The initiative of CIL and BHEL will lead to commercialisation of home-grown coal gasification technology. ***Source***

Transmission charges payable by DICs for the billing month of August 2023

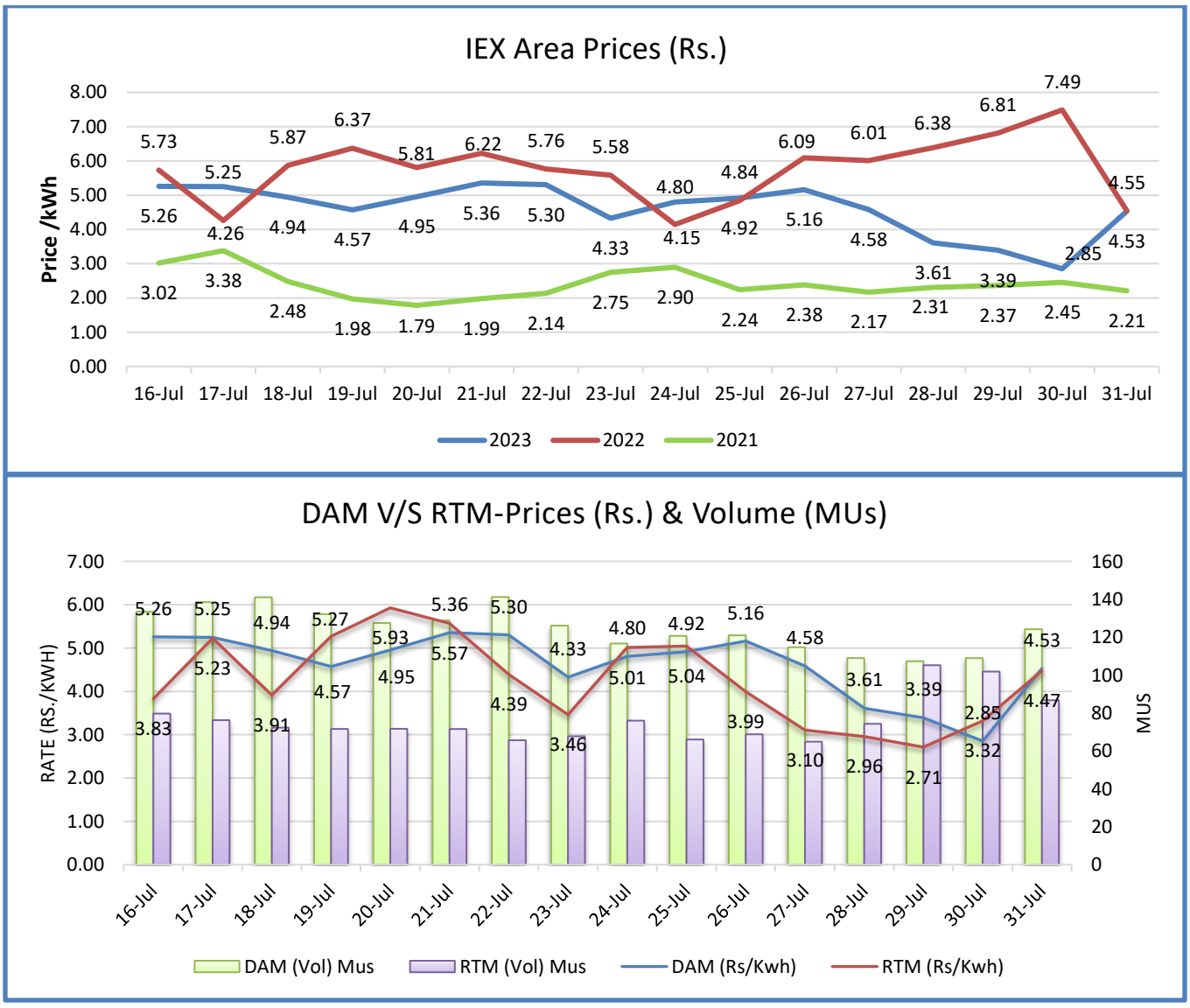
The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of Inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses), Regulations 2020 came into force with effect from 1.11.2020. In these New Regulations, STOA charges will be determined based on monthly state transmission charges and there shall not be any separate injection and drawl PoC charges, for STOA. Further, DISCOMs having long term Access are not required to make any payment against POC charges for STOA transaction.

Transmission Charges for Short Term Open Access (STOA)			
Sl. No.	**State**	**Region**	**STOA rate (paise/kWh)**
1	Delhi	NR	51.14
2	UP	NR	56.88
3	Punjab	NR	50.88
4	Haryana	NR	66.26
5	Chandigarh	NR	43.53
6	Rajasthan	NR	53.48
7	HP	NR	41.94
8	J&K	NR	44.47
9	Uttarakhand	NR	50.63
10	Gujarat	WR	38.15
11	Madhya Pradesh	WR	45.16
12	Maharashtra	WR	53.18
13	Chhattisgarh	WR	37.43
14	Goa	WR	51.26
15	Daman Diu	WR	46.76
16	Dadra Nagar Haveli	WR	46.76
17	Andhra Pradesh	SR	65.61
18	Telangana	SR	48.49
19	Tamil Nadu	SR	48.24
20	Kerala	SR	51.14
21	Karnataka	SR	51.44
22	Pondicherry	SR	43.86
23	Goa-SR	SR	42.41
24	West Bengal	ER	50.43
25	Odisha	ER	46.47
26	Bihar	ER	44.41
27	Jharkhand	ER	49.12
28	Sikkim	ER	37.84
29	DVC	ER	44.48
30	Bangladesh	ER	36.14
31	Arunachal Pradesh	NER	41.55
32	Assam	NER	43.34
33	Manipur	NER	40.93
34	Meghalaya	NER	36.04
35	Mizoram	NER	42.54
36	Nagaland	NER	57.41
37	Tripura	NER	45.59

Bilateral Tender Status

Sl. No.	Tender Quantum (MW)	Supply Period	Time Blocks (Hrs.)	Price (Rs./kWh)	LOI Status
GUVNL/Short/23-24/RA/72					
1	500	16.08.2023 to 31.08.2023	00:00 to 24:00	5.98	LOI Issued
2	500	01.09.2023 to 30.09.2023	00:00 to 24:00	5.98	
3	500	01.10.2023 to 31.10.2023	00:00 to 24:00	5.58-5.6	
4	500	01.11.2023 to 30.11.2023	00:00 to 24:00	5.32	
5	500	01.12.2023 to 31.12.2023	00:00 to 24:00	5.29	

IEX Price Trends



Weather (Estimated for next fortnight)

City	Max Temp	Min Temp	Precipitation (Probability)
DELHI	35	28	35%
MUMBAI	31	27	61%
KOLKATA	33	28	71%
CHENNAI	35	27	22%

(Source - Accuweather)

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