



ગુજરાત વેપારી મહામંડળ

Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry



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૧૫ ફેબ્રુઆરી, ૨૦૨૨/૧૫૧૪

શ્રીમતી મમતા વર્મા, IAS

અગ્ર સચિવશ્રી

ઉર્જા અને પેટ્રોકેમીકલ્સ વિભાગ

ગુજરાત સરકાર, સચિવાલય

ગાંધીનગર.

વિષય: ઉર્જા અને સોલર પોલીસી અંગેના પ્રશ્નોની ચર્ચા કરવા મિટિંગનું આયોજન કરવા વિનંતી.

માનનીયશ્રી,

તા. ૨૯ જાન્યુઆરી, ૨૦૨૨ના રોજ માનનીય મુખ્યમંત્રી શ્રી ભૂપેન્દ્રભાઈ પટેલની અધ્યક્ષતામાં માનનીય મંત્રી શ્રી જગદીશભાઈ પંચાલ તેમજ ઉચ્ચ અધિકારીઓની ઉપસ્થિતિમાં **GCCI**ના હોદ્દેદારો સાથે એક મિટિંગનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. આ મિટિંગમાં **GCCI** દ્વારા જુદા જુદા વિભાગોને સંલગ્ન પ્રશ્નોની રજૂઆત કરવામાં આવી હતી. આ મિટિંગમાં ચર્ચા થયા મુજબ માનનીય મુખ્યમંત્રીશ્રીએ વિભિન્ન વિભાગોના ઉચ્ચ અધિકારીઓ સાથે મિટિંગ કરી પ્રશ્નોની વિસ્તૃત ચર્ચા કરવા સૂચન કર્યું હતું.

આજ રોજ આપશ્રી સાથે થયેલ મુલાકાતમાં આપે ગુજરાતના વેપાર-ઉદ્યોગને સ્પર્શતા ઉર્જા અને સોલર પોલીસી અંગેના પ્રશ્નો આપશ્રીને મોકલી આપવા જણાવેલ. આ અનુસંધાને આપશ્રીને ઉર્જા અને સોલર પોલીસીને લગતા પ્રશ્નો તેમજ તેના નિરાકરણ માટેના સૂચિત પગલાંઓ આ સાથે મોકલાવી રહ્યા છીએ. આ ઉપરાંત અમારા રીજનલ ચેમ્બરો દ્વારા અમુક ક્ષેત્રિય પ્રશ્નો પણ અત્રે આપશ્રીને મોકલાવીએ છીએ.

આ પ્રશ્નો રાજ્યના વેપાર-ઉદ્યોગના વિકાસ માટે અગત્યના છે તેથી આ પ્રશ્નોને ત્વરિત ધોરણે ધ્યાને લેવા અને વિસ્તૃત ચર્ચા માટે આપશ્રીનો અનુકૂળ સમય ફાળવવા અમારી નમ્ર વિનંતી છે.

આપનો વિશ્વાસુ,

હેમંત એન. શાહ

પ્રમુખ.

બિડાણ : ઉપર મુજબ



Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry

A. Energy

Sr. No	ISSUE	SUGGESTION
1.	At present LTMD connections are allowed till 100 KW only. Due to change in process, GPCB measures etc., so many consumers have to switch over from coal/ oil-based furnace to electric furnace, such consumers have to switch over to HT connection. They do not have enough space for installation of transformers etc. in Maharashtra, LT connections are allowed till 150 KW	To allow LTMD connections upto 150 KW
2.	HT connections on 11 KV/ 22 KV are allowed upto 4000 KVA/ KW. Thereafter, consumers have to switch over to 66 KV which requires installation of sub station requiring lot of land and huge cost.	HT connections on 11/ 22 KV should be allowed upto 5000 KVA/ KW
3.	Non-implementation of GERC Rules / Orders, Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum(CGRF) & Ombudsman's Orders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CGRF and Ombudsman are created by the Electricity Act, 2003 to simplify and speed-up legal proceedings for consumers. But it has been observed that in so many cases if CGRF or Ombudsman delivers order against DISCOM, instead of implementing it, DISCOM prefers to file a petition before Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat and that too without implementing order of CGRF / Ombudsman. It creates a situation where consumer is stuck in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DISCOMs should follow CGRF / Ombudsman order and if further legal proceedings are preferred, that should be done after implementing order of CGRF / Ombudsman / GERC.



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Sr. No	ISSUE	SUGGESTION
	legal proceedings for very long period, wasting its time and money.	
4	Additional Load Reduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ombudsman vide order dated 28/08/2017 has already ordered that two years agreement period is valid for additional load only and original load for which two years agreement period is completed can be reduced. In spite of clear order by Ombudsman, DISCOMs are mentioning two years' time period for total load i.e. including original load and additional load. This is clear violation of Ombudsman order. It may please be noted that no stay is granted by any higher court / forum against Ombudsman order.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In case of additional load, agreement shall be executed for 2 years for additional load only. Original load may be allowed to reduce after one year and 2 year by 10% or any quantum as per GERC rules, respectively.
5	Deemed Merger Bills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">As per order of Ombudsman and APTEL, supplementary bill for deemed merger can be issued from the date of notice for merger of adjoining connections. Same is endorsed by Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat vide its order date 22/05/2020. In spite of so many such orders, it is found that DISCOM is issuing supplementary bill for deemed merger even for the period of @ 6 years in violation of orders of Ombudsman, APTEL and High Court. Such wrong bills results in unnecessary financial and mental harassment to consumer defeating motto of 'Ease of Doing Business'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is requested that DISCOM should follow order of Ombudsman, APTEL and High Court and not raise deemed merger supplementary bill for the period prior to the notice for merger. Also wherever such charges are recovered for the period prior to notice date, same should be refunded to concern consumers immediately.



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Sr. No	ISSUE	SUGGESTION
	<p>All four state DISCOMS have collected huge amounts from consumers on account of supplementary bill for deemed merger for the period prior to merger notice. Even after clear order of Hon'ble High Court, till DISCOMS have not refunded such amount to consumers.</p>	
6	<p>Effective Date of Load Reduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">As per supply code notified by GERC, effective date of load reduction shall be from the date of inspection. Inspection should be scheduled within 7 working days in Class-I cities and urban areas and 10 working days in rural areas from the date of receipt of application form. Other DISCOMS are following above rule but UGVCL is considering effective date of load reduction from the date of replacement of CTs in case of EHT consumers. Even after repeated representation along with narration of GERC rules, UGVCL is not following GERC's rules and regulations. Now CGRF, on 20/02/2021, has ordered to consider effective date of load reduction from the date of inspection i.e. within 10 days of application as per GERC rules but UGVCL not implemented it and filed petition before High Court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is requested to intimate UGVCL to implement CGRF order.
7.	<p>Wrong Billing for Seasonal Consumers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">As per GERC's tariff order, seasonal consumers taking HT supply should be billed for the minimum charges on annual basis. It means	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is requested to restore billing methodology, w.e.f. Mar-2019, as per GERC's tariff order i.e. by deriving monthly demand charges on actual



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Sr. No	ISSUE	SUGGESTION
	<p>that, during month of seasonal status demand charges should be levied for actual demand. Till Feb-19 GUVNL DISCOMS were levying demand charges on actual demand even when actual demand was less than minimum billing demand (i.e. 85% of contract demand). From Mar-19, GUVNL DISCOMS have started to bill minimum billing demand on monthly basis when actual demand was less than minimum billing demand in a month.</p>	<p>demand or 100 KVA whichever is higher basis only and to derive minimum billing demand on annual basis only.</p>
8	<p>Per KVA Fixed Charges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">As per GERC order dated 07/07/2020 in Petition No. 1829 of 2019, only fixed per KVA charges are recoverable from HT consumers for new connection or additional load. UGVCL is recovering some other charges also in addition to fixed per KVA charges in violation of GERC's order.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is therefore requested to direct DISCOMS not to recover any other charge except fixed per KVA charges and to refund such amount wherever recovered.
9	<p>Delay in Implementation of ED Exemption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Govt. of Gujarat has extended benefit of ED exemption for 5 years in case of expansion also subject to specified terms and conditions. DISCOM is supposed to allow benefit of ED exemption in such cases as per approval of collector of ED in same month. But it has come to notice that (specifically in UGVCL) for consumers having wind mill, DISCOM is allowing benefit of ED exemption for expansion unit after one month.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This is against spirit of Govt. of Gujarat's motive for ease of doing business. Therefore it is requested to allow benefit of ED exemption in such cases in same month itself.



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Sr. No	ISSUE	SUGGESTION
10.	<p>Administrative Delays in newly developed industrial estates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently there is significant delay in providing new HT connections in newly developed industrial estates.• Delay is also being faced in cases of sanctioning increase in load	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Such process should be simplified seeking minimum documents that too in soft copies only to promote Ease of Doing Business
11.	<p>Delay Payment Charges (DPC) for Lockdown Period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government of Gujarat vide Energy & Petrochemicals Department's GR dated 27/03/2020 and 11/05/2020 has extended due date for payment of energy bill to 30/05/2020 for energy bills issued during 01/03/2020 to 30/04/2020. In GR it is explicitly mentioned that during above period any kind of DPC are not to be recovered by DISCOMS. <p>For consumers who paid energy bills after 30/05/2020, DISCOMS have recovered DPC from pre-extended due date.</p> <p>As per GERC's tariff order, DPC are recoverable for the period from the due date till the date of payment if the bill is paid after due date. In current case, due date was extended by Government of Gujarat to 30/05/2020 and Government of Gujarat has explicitly mentioned in GR that no DPC are recoverable during exempted period of 01/03/2020 to 30/05/2020.</p> <p>DISCOMS have recovered DPC for the period from 13/04/2020 to 03/06/2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is requested that DISCOMS should refund DPC recovered for the period 01/03/2020 to 30/05/2020.



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Sr. No	ISSUE	SUGGESTION
12.	<p>Formation of Special Cell for Interpretation of Rules and Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Often difference of opinion has been observed in implementation and interpretation of rules and regulations of GERC.• It ultimately leads to legal proceedings and inconvenience to consumers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is requested to form special cell with representation of various consumer associations including GCCCI at the earliest possible please.
13.	<p>Circular Copy to GCCCI:</p> <p>GUVNL / DISCOMs are often circulating circulars related to consumers, copies of which are not provided to GCCCI and hence timely inputs or feedback could not be provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is requested to send copy of all such circulars, issued since April – 2005 and to be issued henceforth, to GCCCI in hardcopy as well as by E-mail on mail id gcci@gujaratchamber.org
14.	<p>Gas related issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of transparency in pricing <p>There is a lack of transparency in pricing of gas. It is often observed that Gujarat Gas is charging different price for gas in different regions, which results in undue cost differential and unhealthy internal competition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum Guaranteed Offtake (MGO) contracts <p>The MGO contracts only mention the supply quantity but there is no mention of the supply price. Due to this, the supply price is changed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There should be uniform pricing across the state• The MGO Contracts should also mention the supply price or a price range so that the consumer gets some clarity regarding the price.



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Sr. No	ISSUE	SUGGESTION
	<p>frequently and significantly by the supplier company and the consumer gets no clarity about the rate at which he would be supplied the gas. These MGO contracts are bilateral contracts which are supposed to protect the interests of both the consumer and supplier. However, lack of clarity regarding the price makes the contract biased in favour of the supplier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Option to purchase gas from other supplier after completion of monopoly period <p>The consumer is currently not allowed to purchase gas from another supplier even after completion of monopoly period. The consumer is therefore unable to avail the benefit of competitive pricing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High cost of setting up new pipeline/gas network <p>Currently very high cost is being borne by the consumer in cases where new pipeline or gas network is to be set up. Also, even if there is an existing network set up by one supplier, the same process is repeated by another supplier which results in duplication of efforts and multiplied costs for the consumer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The consumer should be provided the option to purchase from another supplier after completion of monopoly period.• Other gas suppliers should be allowed to use the existing pipeline/gas network on payment of rental and transport costs



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Sr. No	ISSUE	SUGGESTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Captive power consumption by biogas plant <p>Bio-gas plants are currently not allowed to use the power generated by them for their own captive consumption. Due to this they have to purchase power from external suppliers at a much higher cost</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bio-gas plants should be allowed to use part of the power generated by them for captive consumption.



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: Other Regional Issues:

1. Saurashtra Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Sr. No	Issue	Suggestion
1	<p>Uninterrupted supply of electricity needs to be ensured for the dehydration industry at Mahua.</p> <p>Mahua region of Bhavnagar district is renowned for its dehydration industry. This industry is a power intensive industry and therefore, uninterrupted supply of power is required. However, PGVCL is not able to provide continuous power due to maintenance related issues.</p>	<p>Necessary steps should be taken to ensure that the maintenance work is completed at the earliest and uninterrupted power is made available to the dehydration units.</p>

2. Banaskantha Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Sr. No	Issue	Suggestion
1	<p>Electric Sub Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">There is a need for setting up of a new electric substation at Banaskantha district as the existing substation is operating on full load and many new industries are being set up in the district due to rapid development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A new electric substation should be established by the UGVCL in the Banaskantha district.



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B. Solar

No.	Issue	Suggestion
1.	Banking Charges <ul style="list-style-type: none">Banking Charges HIGHLY UNVIABLE for industry to survive. (Rs. 1.5 / Unit for LSI and Rs. 1.1 /Unit for MSME). No other state levies such charges on Solar power.Currently, even if the power is used at the time of generation, which does not involve any banking, Banking Charges are applied.Monthly Banking was part of Solar Policy 2015 and the same has been withdrawn in Solar Policy 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The banking charges need to be reduced. Energy banking Charges to be completely revoked for Solar Captive Plant under Open access.Banking Charges should only be applicable, if power is allowed to be used at a different time than it was generated.In order to promote Solar Power, we suggest to reintroduce Monthly Banking.
2.	Net Metering <ul style="list-style-type: none">Net Metering regulation is in GERC and its final order is yet not released though its hearing has been concluded on 14/09/2021, i.e. almost 4 months back.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Govt. of Gujarat may please request GERC to release the Net metering Regulation.GERC may also be requested to ensure net metering up to 1 MW of Roof Top Solar Projects.
3.	Residential Roof Top Solar Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">GST rates have increase from 5% to 12% on Solar Panels & Inverters. <p>Because of higher GST rates, old tender has become unviable. Also, its time period was over on 31/03/2021 and the same has been extended.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Govt. of Gujarat may please advise DISCOM / GUVNL to float the new tenders for the same.



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No.	Issue	Suggestion
4.	Small Scale Distributed Solar Project (SSDSP) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Withdrawal of Capital & Interest Subsidy in SSDSP scheme has shaken investor confidence in state of Gujarat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We request Govt. of Gujarat to declare these subsidies to SSDSP project developers.Projects under SSDSP shall also help Govt. of Gujarat to get more power & cheaper during the day time, which it can give to farmers. This will be boon for farmers as they have been demanding power at the DAY TIME.
5.	Group Captive Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">Electricity Act 2003 allows multiple power producer to hold equity in power producer and qualify for Captive Consumer. However, Solar Policy of Gujarat has not followed this definition and instead mandated 100 % equity by only one entity to qualify for Captive Power Consumer.This is a big anomaly between Govt. of Gujarat Policy and Land of Law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Group Captive Power Producer definition should be aligned with that given in Electricity Act 2003.So, we request to eliminate this anomaly and Group Captive definition be followed as per Electricity Act 2003 only.
6.	Cross Subsidy Surcharge (CSS) and Additional Surcharge (ACS) <ul style="list-style-type: none">CSS and ACS are applicable on THIRD PARTY POWER SALE and they are currently at about Rs. 2.2 / Unit.These charges are TOO HIGH and makes THIRD PARTY investment commercially unviable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We request to eliminate CSS and ACS on THIRD PARTY SALE of Solar Power.
7.	Wheeling Losses <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wheeling Losses for Solar Power by DISCOMS are increased to 10%, which were earlier 3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We request you to reduce the same to its previous level of 3%.



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No.	Issue	Suggestion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More than 300% increase in Wheeling Losses is a big blow to consumers on 11 KV, which are generally MSMEs.	