

The Record of discussions at the 2nd meeting of the State Advisory Committee, Shillong held on 1st November, 2007 is as follows and the list of members who attended is at Annexure-A.

1. The Chairman welcomed the members to the 2nd meeting of the Advisory Committee called for the specific purpose of eliciting the views of the member on the Meghalaya State Electricity Board's proposal for a new tariff to be applied in the year 2007-08. The details of the proposal had been published in leading newspapers and as many as ten representations had been received. These have since been forwarded to the Me.S.E.B. for their response. The gist of the representations was read out and there was general satisfaction with the way the consumers had engaged with the transparent interactive process of determining tariff prescribed in the 2003 Act.
2. Participating in the discussion, Mr. K.C. Momin spoke at length about the poor quality of service provided to consumers in different parts of Garo Hills. On top of this the extraordinary burden being proposed to be inflicted on the consumers through the proposed enhanced tariff was totally unjustified.
3. Mr. L. Roy, Commissioner and Secretary, Consumer Affairs spoke about the alarmingly low generation output achieved by the Me.S.E.B. This when combined with the equally dismal figures of T&D losses was, in his view the principal reason for the proposed hike. He urged the Commission not to accept such low levels of efficiency while computing the ARR for the current year.
4. Mr. Lato's remarks went into details of how extensive theft of electricity is carried out. He spoke about instances of connivance with Me.S.E.B. staff and pointed to the fact that many of the meter readers were working on daily wages and had no commitment to the duties. A specific reference was made by him to Lad Rymbai where the entire community was involved in illegal drawing of power.
5. Mr. Francis Mawlot brought to the notice of the meeting the unrest among consumers because of the widely held view that the new electronics meter show excessive consumption. In his view, at least in Nongstoin, there were hardly any instances of theft of power.
6. Mr. R. Bawri felt that most of the relevant issues had already been covered in the representations received from the consuming public. He however wished to draw the attention of the meeting to insist on audited figures of account. He also felt that the discrepancy in "loss" figures used on different occasions needed to be further enquired into. Authenticating the claimed figures of generation achieved should also be carried out. He along with others felt that burdening the consumers with Rs. 55 crores of interest included in the ARR was not justified. Reforming the Board in accordance with the provisions of the Act was overdue and expediting action in this regard would help in bringing about greater efficiency in the sector.

7. Ms. J. Shullai spoke about the proposed hike in tariff and the likelihood of consumer resistance leading to litigation and a stalemate which could actually stall the entire scheme of power supply in the State.
8. Lt. Col. Ballaney RN insisted on third party authentication of actual generation figures. He found it difficult to accept that generation was restricted to only 24% of the installed capacity.
9. Mr. Dympep expressed his dismay with the extra-ordinarily high tariff increase proposed by the Board. He felt that the burden would be too much for the consumers in the State. He was also critical about the high manpower cost projected by the Board.
10. Referring to the Act the Chairman dwelt on the 120 day limit for completing determination of the new tariff. This meant that the Commission should announce its decision before the 18th of December. The next step for the Commission was to hold a public hearing. This would be an open affair at which the Board and the representees would have an opportunity to place their points of view before the Commission. This meeting should take place around the third week of November. Members of the Advisory Committee would also be free to attend the public hearing.

On behalf of the Commission the Chairman expressed his deep appreciation of the constructive suggestions made by the members. He was particularly satisfied with the way in which the members of the Advisory committee projected the views of various stakeholders. This would assist the Commission in completing the task of determining the tariff for the current year.

**List of members attending the 2nd meeting of the State Advisory Committee
held on 1st November, 2007 at Pinewood Hotel, Shillong.**

Sl. No.	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	Smti. J.E. Shullai	: Ex-Chairman, Meghalaya Public Service Commission, Golf-Link, Golf Club, Shillong.
2.	Shri. Darlington Dympep	: General Secretary, Meghalaya State Committee AITUC, Shillong.
3.	Shri L . Roy	: Commissioner & Secretary Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department.
4.	Shri. S.K. Lato	: Jaintia Hills District, Jowai.
5.	Shri. Ramesh Bawri	: President Confederation of Industries, Meghalaya, Adviser Meghalaya Chamber of Commerce, Dhankheti, Shillong.
6.	Shri. K.C. Momin	: Ex-MLA, West Garo Hills District, Tura.
7.	Lt. Col. Ballaney RN	: C/o HQ Chief Engineer Shillong Zone.
9.	Shri. F.K. Mawlot	: Ex-MLA, Nongpyndeng, Nongstoin, P.O. Nongstoin-793119. West Khasi Hills District.