

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF FORUM OF REGULATORS (FOR)

**Venue : Upper Ground Floor Conference Hall,
CERC**

Date / Day : 14th June, 2023; Wednesday

Timings : 15:00 hrs

List of Attendees: Appendix

1. Chairperson, FOR/CERC in his opening remarks welcomed Secretary, MNRE, the FOR members and other officials present in the meeting. He informed the Forum that the special meeting was convened to discuss important issues pertaining to renewable energy and also the issues proposed by MNRE. In addition, the Forum also had agenda items for discussion on the RPO Webtool of Prayas and the Blockchain P2P trading mechanism developed by ISGF.
2. In his address, Secretary, MNRE informed the Forum that he wanted to bring to its attention the various initiatives taken by MNRE, the support and assistance expected from the State & Joint ERCs in mitigating the hardships being faced by the RE developers, and to work out long term and short term solutions.

Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up for discussion.

AGENDA 1: INITIATIVES TAKEN BY MNRE AND REGULATORY SUPPORT REQUIRED IN ACHIEVING THE RE TARGETS. - PRESENTATION BY MNRE

3. A presentation (**Annexure – I**) on various initiatives taken up by MNRE as also the regulatory support for the fructification of such schemes was made by a representative of MNRE. It was informed that 128 GW of RE were at various stages of the tendering process and that 1.85 GW of Residential Rooftop Solar (RTS) was also being targeted in the States. It was also informed that for achieving the target of 5 MMTPA of green hydrogen generation, approximately 125 GW of RE capacity would be required. Therefore, the support of SERCs is pivotal to meeting the targets.
4. Secretary, MNRE also appreciated the fact that FOR had formulated a Model Regulation on “Grid Interactive Distributed Renewable Energy Sources” in 2019.

However, post issuance of the Model Regulations, there were substantial technological and other changes. As such, he requested the Forum to update the Model Regulations. He added that Karnataka had done substantial work in augmenting RE generation at feeder level under PM KUSUM and that MNRE would be carrying out an in-depth analysis of the same and publishing a report that will be helpful for other States to develop their strategies in harnessing feeder level RE integration.

5. On the request of MNRE to pass a generic Order for Change in law events related to Safe Guard Duty (SGD) and GST for various projects, the Forum members opined that as the Capex, SCOD and other aspects of the projects are different, it may not be practical to pass a uniform Order enabling pass through of such changes in law.
6. On the issue of RPO targets, the Forum opined that as the States do not have the same level of RE generation potential, it is not prudent to fix the same RPO targets for all States. MNRE informed that the practice of providing technology specific cut off dates for the installation/ commissioning of the projects for being considered as RE generation was creating hardships for discoms to meet their RPO targets. The Forum also emphasised the need for consideration of hydro energy imported from across the border for meeting RPO targets.
7. While on the topic of PM KUSUM Scheme, the Forum suggested that the possibility of providing subsidy for setting up distributed RE on feeders other than agricultural feeders should be explored, as segregation of feeders requires substantial investment, which may be used as subsidy for promoting distributed RE.
8. The Forum also stated that the practice of providing waivers of ISTS charges to RE developers and selling power to States other than the host State creates an undue imbalance in the system and could, in the long run, impede the development of RE projects in RE-rich States.
9. Responding to the suggestions of the members of the Forum, MNRE indicated that the decision to implement the PM KUSUM only on agri feeder was taken in view of the limitations of the funds available. It was also informed that the MoP has decided

to do away with the waivers of transmission charge in a phased manner post 2025. The MNRE also suggested having a quarterly or half yearly discussion with the FOR on emerging issues.

10. In order to address various issues both on the policy and regulatory fronts, the Forum agreed to constitute a Working Group / Committee of FOR to discuss and address such issues.

AGENDA 2: PORTAL ON RPO COMPLIANCE - PRESENTATION BY PRAYAS (ENERGY GROUP)

11. Representatives of Prayas (Energy group) made a presentation (**Annexure – II**) on the new portal developed by them regarding state wise RPO targets and compliance.
12. The Forum appreciated the Portal as it gave a very detailed analysis of various provisions of the RPO regulations, compliance, penalty provisions and advised Prayas to continue with their efforts on the Portal as it would serve as a good reference point for the data on RPO compliance.

AGENDA 3: PRESENTATION BY INDIA SMART GRID FORUM (ISGF)

A) NATIONAL REGISTRY OF DISTRIBUTED SOLAR ROOFTOP PV SYSTEMS & PILOT DEMONSTRATION OF SMART INVERTER

B) BLOCKCHAIN PILOT PROJECTS

13. Representatives of the India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) made a presentation on the National Registry of Distributed Solar Rooftop PV systems & a pilot demonstration of smart inverters (**Annexure – III**) and on Blockchain pilot projects carried out by them (**Annexure - IV**). While detailing the process of P2P solar energy transactions through a block chain based platform, it was informed that UPERC is the first Commission to have come out with such guidelines. Subsequently, the utilities of Delhi (Tata Power - DDL) and Kolkata (CESC) have also initiated such a platform. The need for emulating this exercise in other States was emphasised.

14. The Forum noted the presentation and the suggestions made therein.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Secretary, FOR/CERC to the Chair.
