

**BEFORE THE TELANGANA STATE ELECTRICITY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Singareni Bhavan, Red Hills, Hyderabad – 500 004

**OP No. 6 & 7 of 2016**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

Petition requesting the Commission

1. To direct DISCOMs to fill line men and junior line men posts.
2. To take stringent action to bring down electrical accidents.
3. To allow the objector to be heard in person before the Commission takes any decision on this application of the DISCOMs.

For perusal  
Secretary  
Member/T  
Member/F  
Chairman

313  
313  
313

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**Name and full address of the petitioner:**

**S.Jeevan Kumar,**  
**Telangana State President**  
Human Rights Forum  
H.No.3-12-117/A2/B  
P.S.Colony,Ramanthapur  
HYDERABAD-500 013

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**Represented by**

S. Jeevan Kumar  
President  
Human Rights Forum

**MEMBER (F) PESHI**

No : 321 And

DATE : 30/3/16

**Name and address of the Respondents:**

Chairman and Managing Director  
Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Ltd,  
Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Ltd,

**MEMBER (T) PESHI**

No : 313

DATE : 30/3/16

**CHAIRMAN PESHI**

No : 371

DATE : 31/3/16

TSERC, HYDERABAD  
INWARD  
29 MAR 2016  
No. 478  
Signature

**BEFORE THE TELANGANA STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY  
COMMISSION**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Singareni Bhavan, Lakdi-ka-pool, Red Hills, Hyderabad – 500 004

**IN THE MATTER OF**

Petition requesting the Commission

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**AFFIDAVIT VERIFYING THE MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTIONS**

I, S. Jeevan Kumar, son of Late S.V.Ramakrishna, hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:


1. I am the President of Human Rights Forum (HRF), the applicant in the above matter and am duly authorised by the said applicant to make this memorandum of objections on its behalf.
2. The statements made in the paragraphs of the accompanying memorandum of objections now shown to me are true to my knowledge, derived from the Filing of ARR and Proposed Tariffs for FY 2016-17 of the two DISCOMs and the material gathered by HRF and made available to me and are based on information and advice received which I believe to be true and correct.

Solemnly affirm

Deponent

Date: 29-03-2016

Hyderabad

  
(S. Jeevan Kumar)

**BEFORE THE TELANGANA STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY  
COMMISSION**

\* 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Singareni Bhavan, Lakdi-ka-pool, Red Hills, Hyderabad – 500 004

1. The following suggestions and objections on the ARR and tariff proposals of TSDISCOMs are being submitted in response to public notice dated 10-03-2016.

**Electrical accidents**

DISCOM	2014-15				2015-16 (Up to September '15)			
	Human		Animal		Human		Animal	
	No. of fatal accidents	Ex-gratia paid	No. of fatal accidents	Ex-gratia paid	No. of fatal accidents	Ex-gratia paid	No. of fatal accidents	Ex-gratia paid
NPDCL	147	97	233	211	96	57	117	114
SPDCL	307	111	67	67	150	143	135	135
Total	454	208	300	278	246	200	252	249

2. Every year the incidents of deaths due to electrical accidents are being brought to the attention of the Commission. These deaths are avoidable and occurrence of these tragic incidents show that the DISCOMs in the state are least concerned about these. Human fatalities due to electrical accidents increased from 436 in 2013-14 to 454 in 2014-15. In the first half of 2016-16 this number has already reached 246. We request the Commission to direct the DISCOMs to take concrete steps to bring down these tragic incidents.

3. Under SPDCL area more than 85% of the fatal human accidents have taken place in Mahabubnagar, Medak and Nalgonda circles. Similarly, under NPDCL area more than 50% of these accidents have taken place in Warangal and Karimnagar circles. These circles have large number of agricultural services. It is the agricultural consumers at the receiving end.

4. Despite heartrending accounts by farmers' representatives during the public hearings and the Commission's directives as well as allocation of funds through tariff orders DISCOMs appear to have not moved. In the Tariff Order for the present year the Commission noted, "The Commission has been directing the Discoms to take all preventive measures to avoid accidents. In cases of accidents after such measures they are required to pay compensation promptly after verification of individual cases. Despite directions of the Commission, the sad part is that the numbers of accidents are increasing. The Discoms must initiate steps on a war footing basis to reduce the accidents and loss of human life. Provision



of Rs. 200 Crore for each Discom has been made under Special appropriation for safety measures in the Tariff Order for 3rd Control period". (P125)

5. DISCOMs are claiming that they are taking all steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents. But they keep taking place. For example, SPDCL in response to directives 7.11 and 7.12 claimed that the damaged conductors are being replaced regularly and that the staff are attending to replacement of fuses in agriculture DTRs (p.16). This is far from truth. It is also worth noting that nearly 40% of the fatal accidents are taking place due to snapped conductors. Visits to villages show that the DTRs serving agriculture do not have fuse boxes or AB switches. Their DTR is just a box. If there is a case of conductor snapping the service provided by DISCOM is to give Line Clearance (LC) so that the problem can be attended to. It is not easy to get LC and even a small problem in rural areas need LC to be solved. Again it is the farmers who will repair the snapped conductor but not the DISCOM staff. As there is delay in obtaining LC unsuspecting farmers step on the fallen live conductors and get electrocuted. It will not be exaggeration to say that more than 90% of DTRs serving agriculture are not technically sound.

6. A large number of line man and junior line man posts in the rural areas are lying vacant. In the absence of technical support from line men/ junior line men farmers are trying to attend to the electrical problems and repairs on their own and in the process are getting electrocuted. We request the Commission to direct the DISCOMs to fill all vacancies and create additional posts in the background increase in number of connections.

7. During the public hearing on tariff proposals for the year 2015-16 CMD of SPDCL assured to conduct a study on these electrical accidents. In case the study is over we request the Commission to direct SPDCL to share the report with the public.

#### **Prayer to the Commission**

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2. To take stringent action to bring down electrical accidents.
3. To allow the objector to be heard in person before the Commission takes any decision on this application of the DISCOMs.

  
(S. Tevarakumar)