

Respectfully submitted,

M. Laxmi

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Place: Hyderabad

ANNEXURE: LEGAL PROVISIONS, DOCUMENTS, AND PRINCIPLES RELIED UPON

Electricity Act, 2003

- Section 2(15) – Definition of consumer: any person supplied with electricity for his own use. The farmer is the consumer regardless of who pays; the Government's Section 65 subsidy does not alter this.
- Section 2(17) – Distribution licensee: authorised to operate and maintain a distribution system. TGRPDCL, owning only DTRs and LT lines, does not satisfy this definition.
- Section 14 – Grant of licence for a specified area of supply; franchise proviso. Area-based framework. No provision for consumer-class restriction.
- Section 15 – Procedure for grant of licence. Application must specify area of supply.
- Section 16 – Conditions of licence: the power to specify conditions is vested exclusively in the Commission, not the licensee. The Section 16 proviso prohibits the Commission from specifying any condition inconsistent with the Act — including a consumer-class restriction inconsistent with Section 43.
- Section 17 – Licensee not to do certain things: Section 17(2)(a) prohibits transfer of licence or undertaking or any part thereof without prior Commission approval.
- Section 18 – Modification of licence conditions: the Commission's power, after notice and hearing. Limited to conditions of the licence; does not extend to the Section 43 statutory duty.
- Section 19 – Revocation of licence: Section 19(2) provides that even upon complete revocation, the licensee is not automatically discharged from liabilities without a specific Commission direction.
- Section 42(5) – Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum: mandatory for every distribution licensee.
- Section 43 – Universal service obligation: absolute statutory duty, not a licence condition. Cannot be modified by Commission order under Section 16 or Section 18. Only Parliament can alter it.