

42/C

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXPENDITURE FINANCE COMMITTEE (E.F.C.) HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY ON 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

A meeting of the Expenditure Finance Committee was held in the Conference Room of the Chief Secretary on 30/10/2017.


The following members were present for the meeting:

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. Shri. Dharmendra Sharma<br>Chief Secretary            | Chairman |
| 2. Shri. Daulat A Hawaldar<br>Secretary (Finance)        | Member   |
| 3. Shri. Michael M. D'Souza<br>Addl. Secretary (Fin-Exp) | Member   |
| 4. Smt. Isha Khosla<br>Special Secretary (Budget)        | Member   |
| 5. Shri. N. N. Reddy<br>Chief Electrical Engineer        | Member   |

The following tender was deliberated on;

1. Proposal for conversion of existing 11KV overhead Netravali feeder to Underground cabling network emanating from 33/11KV Vaddem Substation in Sanguem Constituency under jurisdiction of Sub Division III, Sanguem. (₹. 45.31 Crores).

The Chief Electrical Engineer, explained that the cost of the work is ₹.45.31 crore and the scope of the work involves conversion of overhead 11KV line to underground system for a total distance of 45kms. The said line is more than 30 years old ; major portion passes through forest area in dense vegetation. It was also explained that the initial decision of providing ABC cable was found not feasible, as there would be a possible damage to cable, due to falling of trees and branches especially during the monsoon season, ensuing repeated interruptions to power supply in the area. The area is declared as "Atal Gram" under the Atal Adarsha Gram Yojna, Govt of India and the area is emerging as an eco-tourism belt where popular places such as Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary with a



41/C

variety of Flora & Fauna, Bodbudtalli (bubble lake), DattGuunfa (Lord Datta Cave), and water falls like Savari, Mainapi, Pali etc., including vast agricultural farms are existing.

It was explained that although the population figure in the area is around 5000 odd with 2500 consumers at present, in view of the Government Policy, emphasis to convert overhead to underground system in all parts of Goa State is being implemented in phases and this area is being selected due to the increasing power interruptions in the area especially due to repeated occurrences of major damage to the electrical line network and subsequent effect on the Substation equipments.

The Electricity Department, Goa is committed to provide service not only for the benefit of individuals but the entire tribal area/village. Even though Netravali is a Rural Village it is quickly moving towards urbanization due to rapid development. Eco tourism has received a boost as tourists are now turning towards forest belt attracted by Nature Culture. Overcrowding along the coastal belt and beaches is also pushing tourists towards the hinterland especially the wild life sanctuaries and forests.

The villagers of Netravali are involved in occupations such as Dairy Farming, Animal Husbandry, Poultry Farming and other activities. Of these Dairy Farming is a major industry. A major equipment used in farming are chillers which requires 24 x 7 Power Supply. Even in the case of Animal Husbandry and Poultry Farming, 24 x 7 Power Supply is paramount for maintaining the ambient temperature. Stable power supply to the area would boost their livelihood activities to a large extent.

Netravali Village is covered with dense forest. 20 years ago, the Forest Act was not so stringent and overhead electrical lines were erected by cutting trees to create way leave. Whereas, pre-monsoon maintenance activities were also convenient and easier to execute as there were no restrictions imposed.



70/C

Presently, even trimming and pruning of trees which is perquisite of pre-monsoon maintenance for the safeguard of line network is banned. At times, Forest Department Officials have threatened the Departmental staff with arrest warrants for undertaking pruning of trees in the forest area which was undertaken as a regular routine maintenance to maintain proper line clearances from trees in order to provide uninterrupted power supply. Entering forest during the late hours by the staff who are engaged in line fault clearances is restricted and thus, leads to long delays in identifying and rectifying the faults in time.

By laying underground cable, line losses will be reduced substantially as compared to the line losses with the single existing 45km overhead line network. The underground system is undoubtedly a more reliable one than overhead lines as interruptions in such dense vegetation areas are greatly reduced simultaneously leading to increase in revenue. This would also cater to provide 24x7 uninterrupted power supply including better voltage and quality power to the entire area.

The Chief Secretary, queried on the reason to provide underground system to a population less than 6000 odd and stated that it <sup>may be amplified as in</sup> ~~was not justified~~ to spend a huge amount for such a <sup>sparsely</sup> ~~more~~ populated area. He ~~has~~ suggested to resurvey the entire stretch of the 11KV line and redesign the network providing alternate underground system and overhead lines. He has also queried on the objections received from Forest Department as claimed and asked to furnish such letters for a proper assessment.

(X)  
X  
X

The Chief Electrical Engineer explained that the work is a priority of the Government as the said area is a remote Village and adopting a 24 by 7 Power for all is a priority as per the Central Government Scheme. Besides that, the complexity in providing a power line network in such remote location, merging overhead lines and underground lines would not ensure a 24 by 7 power for all facility, as the major portion of the line (98%) falls in the very dense forest area where there are a lot of interruptions due to falling of trees, branches and other related on the lines more often, especially, during the monsoon season and windy climatic conditions, consequently causing major damage to

N. Rao ————— 19/11

insulators, overhead conductor due to its snapping including damage to other line infrastructure. The line route is very lengthy and erected with large spans due to the dense forest area and which has crossed a service life of more than 30 years. The area concerned is inaccessible for any transport vehicle, and especially, faults occurring in the latter part of the day can be attended at the earliest, only in the next day morning session due to utter darkness and inaccessibility during night hours. The staff posted in such rural remote areas are less or minimum and hence, are unable to attend such constant faults effectively due to the above explained inaccessible terrain involved. The inaccessibility due to dense forest results in inconvenience to patrol the line ensuing delay in identifying/ locating the faults due to dense jungle and consequently, delay in restoration or replacement of damaged line materials and poles. There is presently only one source of supply to the entire area and no other alternate source or ring feeding available as the present feeder passes through the dense forest area and is very lengthy. The underground system is proposed bifurcating the existing single lengthy feeder into three different underground feeders with a provision to ring feed, healthy sections of lines in case of line faults thus, increasing the reliability of the power supply in the area and thereby, reduction in restoration time and simultaneously, not effecting the entire area as was with the single lengthy feeder.

In addition, a cable link would also be provided to an existing 11KV feeder "Bharathan" emanating from a 33/11KV substation in the vicinity at Xelpem and which would serve as an alternate power source for a healthy section of the line in the affected areas in occurrence of line faults through sectionalizing and hence, restore power supply to the unaffected section of the line until clearance of fault. Thus, maintaining and restoring power supply, at least, to a portion of the area in shortest possible time.

With the above underground cable provision and arrangement for ring feed system, there would be a 100% reliability in power supply and quality power transmitted to the area which in turn could result in a fillip for Eco-tourism in the area which the Government of Goa has already considered as a priority to promote Tourism.

N. L. S.

— [Signature] —

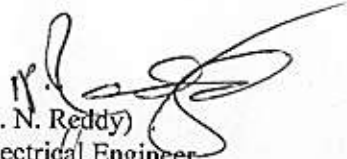
10/11


38/C

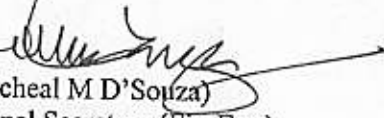
B'

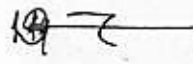
The source of funding would be through funds generated under the Electricity Duty Fund, recovered from the consumers through Energy bills exclusively for creating and augmenting power infrastructure in the State and which is constantly monitored by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC).

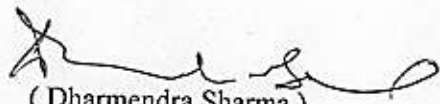
The EFC committee members took the note of above facts and explanation / justification as given by the Chief Electrical Engineer and conferred approval to the proposal.

  
(N. N. Reddy)  
Chief Electrical Engineer  
Member

  
(Smt Isha Khola)  
Special Secretary (Budget)  
Member

  
(Micheal M D'Souza)  
Additional Secretary (Fin-Exp)  
Member

  
(Daulat A. Hawaldar)  
Secretary (Finance)  
Member

  
(Dharmendra Sharma)  
Chief Secretary  
Chairman 28/4/18