

**RECORD NOTE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TARIFF (DISTRIBUTION) FOR THE
YEAR 2009-10 HELD BY MEGHALAYA STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY
COMMISSION AT 11 A.M. ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2009, IN THE PREMISES OF THE
COMMISSION AT SHILLONG.**

Present:-

1. The Commission

Shri. P.J. Bazeley, IAS (Retired)

Chairman

2. State Government.

Shri. B.K. Dev Varma, IAS,
Principal Secretary, Power Department,
Govt. of Meghalaya.

3. Representing the Petitioner (MeSEB)

Shri. D.P. Wahlang, IAS
Member (Finance)

Shri. C.D. Saio, Member (Technical)

Shri. W. Rynjah, CE (Distribution)

Shri. C. Kharkrang, ACE (EI)

Shri. C. Rani, Dy. CAO

Shri. M.S.S. Rawat, Sr. A.O.

Shri. T. Passah, SE (SLDC)

Shri. K.N. War, SE (RA&FD)

Smti. P. Kharpuri, E.E. (Comml)

4. Representing the Greater Shillong Crematorium and Mortuary Society.

Shri. Subhasis Chakravarty, Advocate

Shri. Pankaj Deb Nath, Advocate

Smti. Evalene Shabong, Advocate

Shri. Leataria. B. Susngi, Advocate

Shri. Bikram Dhar

Shri. Jayanta Malakar.

Shillong Bar Association

Shillong Bar Association

Shillong Bar Association

Shillong Bar Association

GSS&MS Thana Road Shillong

GSS&MS, Jhalupara, Shillong

5. Representing Byrnihat Industries Association - None

6. General Public - None

01. Public hearing on the tariff proposal for the year 2009-10 as mandated by law, was initially convened at 11.00 a.m. on the 20th October 2009, at the Commission premises. None were present from the general public.

02. In the absence of any person/persons from the general public, the Commission adjourned the meeting and refixed the public hearing for 11.00 a.m. on the 10th November 2009 at the Commission's premises with wide public notice through the media and written intimation to all concerned.

03. However on assembling of the Commission for taking the public hearing at 11.00 a.m. the 10th November 2009 at the Commission premises, only State Government, the Petitioner (MeSEB) and the Greater Shillong Crematorium and Mortuary Society were represented. There was none from the general public. Keeping in view the wide public notice which has been circulated for the second time, the Commission is of the opinion that in spite of the general notice, widely publicized, none from the general public are interested to appear or give evidence. The Commission therefore decided to go ahead with the public hearing.

04. Opening the public hearing, the Chairman, MSERC welcomed those present and stated that Annual Revenue Requirement and Distribution Tariff Petition of the Meghalaya State Electricity Board for the year 2009-10, had been taken on record by the Commission on 3rd August 2009. On the direction of the Commission, MeSEB had published the petition in an abridged format, as per provision of sub section 2 of Section 64 of the Electricity Act 2003, in the Mawphor issue dated 17th August, 2009, the Shillong Times issued dated 19th August, 2009, the Janera issue dated 20th August, 2009 . Two parties, namely the Greater Shillong Crematorium and Mortuary Society and the Byrnihat Industries Association had submitted written memoranda on the tariff petition. These had been taken into consideration. The instant public hearing had been fixed in accordance with the provisions of law. Those present were accordingly invited to make such submissions as they may desire.

05. Shri Subhasis Chakravarty, Advocate who was the authorised representative of the Greater Shillong Crematorium and Mortuary Society submitted that the Society was responsible for the management of the Shillong Crematorium which was the only electric crematorium in the North Eastern Region, east of North Bengal. It was presently being charged by MeSEB for electricity supplied to the Crematorium at the rate prescribed for the Commercial H.T. category. Since the Society was rendering social service by way of cremation of bodies of deceased person belonging to all faiths and charging only a nominal fees, it was being faced with the burden of steep cost for supply of power to Crematorium at high commercial rates. The Society was therefore not in a position to bear the burden of electricity charge at rate prescribed for Commercial H.T. category. He further submitted that keeping in view the nature of services rendered by similar societies in other States, it can be seen from the tariff prescribed in such States, that supply of electricity for consumption in crematorium were being charge at rates not exceeding the rate charged for supply of electricity for domestic lighting. He cited example of the tariff applicable in the State of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra NCT and West Bengal and urged the Commission to take an appropriate view on the matter.

06. Representing MeSEB, Member Finance (Shri D.P. Wahlang IAS), objected to the submissions made by Shri Chakravarty stating that the public hearing was (to his understanding), intended for voicing objections, if any to the tariff proposal and not for categorization of any service.

No other members raised any issue during the public hearing.

The Secretary to the Commission proposed the vote of thank.

The Chairman concluded the public hearing.

Sd/-
(P.J. Bazeley)
Chairman