



RAJASTHAN ENERGY SCENARIOS 2030 | 2050

Report on Training Workshop for Civil Society Organizations

Date: April 08th 2022,

Venue: Anant Bajaj Limitless Ideas Hub, Sudershanpura, Bais Godam, Jaipur, Rajasthan

BACKGROUND

Bask Research Foundation, Centre for Energy Regulations (CER) IIT Kanpur, and CUTS International are working on a project 'Rajasthan Electricity Demand Scenarios 2030 | 2050' project. The electricity demand of Rajasthan at the state and district level will be forecasted for the years 2030 and 2050 as an outcome of this project.

A half-day training workshop for Civil Society Organizations was organized to build their capacity on long-term demand forecasting, power planning, and the impact of poor planning on consumer tariffs. The list of attendees has been provided in Annexure – 1. The workshop culminated in participants gaining a broader perspective of the electricity sector of Rajasthan and factors impacting the electricity tariffs. This report is the outcome of this event and covers the various sessions and speakers. A post-workshop feedback form was also filled out by the participants, which was used to assess the workshop's effectiveness.

Opening Remarks and Introduction to Electricity Demand Forecasting

Speaker: Anshuman Gothwal, Bask Research Foundation

Anshuman Gothwal, in his introductory remarks, talked about the importance of electricity demand forecasting and the need for accurate forecasting. He mentioned that accurate demand forecasting helps the utilities plan for optimal capacity expansion of the system and for infrastructure development. Also, it helps distribution companies (DISCOMs) prepare for their power purchase requirements in the future. He particularly emphasized that the workshop focuses on building the capacity of the participants about the long-term power planning scenario in Rajasthan and the impact of poor planning on electricity tariff rates. He highlighted the role of CSOs and the impact of their participation during various public hearings by the state commission. He emphasized the need of collective action on planning related issues related in power sector of Rajasthan.

Session I: Electricity Tariff and Power Purchase Cost

Speaker: Sakshi Gupta, Research Associate, Bask Research Foundation

The objective of this session was to inform the participants about the contribution of the power purchase cost in ARR determination, the role of DISCOMs in entering into Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and the importance of long-term demand forecasting in this context.

The discussion highlighted that DISCOMs Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) consists of around 70-80% of the power purchase cost required and the cost-plus pricing mechanism in addition to poor planning of capacity expansion leading to surplus capacity can directly impact the consumer tariffs.

Session II: Rajasthan: Existing scenarios, Framework, Power Portfolio, and Latest Developments in Power Sector

Speaker: Sakshi Gupta, Research Associate, Bask Research Foundation

This session gave an overview of the current scenario of the power sector in Rajasthan. It was highlighted that almost all the state generation power stations are operating at a low plant load factor (PLF) and the payment of fixed charges based on Plant Availability directly impacts the retail consumer tariff.

Session III: Power Sector Planning and Decision Making

Speaker: Anshuman Gothwal, Executive Director, Bask Research Foundation

This session focused on Rajasthan's existing regulatory framework and institutional mechanisms for power planning and the issues with the current methods used by DISCOMs for demand estimation. The session further explored ways for better planning and possible developments happening in the sector, which might significantly contribute to the overall demand.

Session IV: Open house and discussion

Speaker: Anshuman Gothwal, Executive Director, Bask Research Foundation

The session invited all the participants to come forward for an open discussion and present their views, concerns, and issues regarding long-term power planning in Rajasthan. Some of the issues highlighted during the open discussion are as follows:

- a) Sh. Gopal Ram Verma mentioned that despite Rajasthan being an energy surplus state, the agriculture sector in Rajasthan receives electricity for a limited supply time. Many remote areas still face frequent load shedding/power cuts.

- b) Sh. Hari Prasad Yogi highlighted the lack of consumer awareness regarding the role of power planning in tariff determination.
- c) There are no provisions under RERC for CSOs to participate or contribute to the power planning. The minutes of meetings of the Energy Assessment Committee (EAC) are not made available in the public domain, limiting consumers' participation in the decision-making process.
- d) The discussion concluded with the participants agreeing for need for institutional transformation to ensure better practices in the power planning sector in Rajasthan was highlighted.

Way Forward & Closing Remarks

Speaker: Anshuman Gothwal, Executive Director, Bask Research Foundation

The workshop was closed after a feedback session to understand participants' views on the relevance of such a workshop. Participants emphasized the importance of such initiatives for the effective participation of consumers in the sector and the need for such engagements in the future. The session ended with gratitude to the participants.

ANNEXURE – 1 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S. No.	Name	Organization	Place
1	Dipak Gode	Desert Resource Centre	Bikaner
2	Kamlesh Yadav	Gram Chetna Kendra	Khedi
3	Bharat Kumar Bhati	Marudhar Ganga Society	Jodhpur
4	Karna Ram	Marudhar Ganga Society	Jodhpur
5	Pramod Jhanwar	Maruti Sewa Samiti	Udaipur
6	Satya Prakash Nuwal	Independent Member, CGRF Kota (Zone)	Bundi
7	Pradeep Tiwari	IFSAR	Bikaner
8	Hari Prasad Yogi	Consumer Legal Help Society	Sawai Madhopur
9	Rakesh Kumar Parmar	Samajik Vikas Samiti	Dholpur
10	Arvind Roy	Rudra Sanstha	Karoli
11	Gopal Ram Verma	Samajik Nyay Evam Vikas Samiti (SNVS)	Bharatpur
12	Pratibha Sharma	Independent Member, CGRF Jaipur (Zone)	Jaipur
13	Vinod Kumar Sharma	Awareness Training and Motivation for Action (ATMA) Sanstha	Jagmalpura, Jobner
14	Ankush Singh	Samajik Vikas Samiti	Dholpur
15	Ashok Pareek	Independent Member – CGRF Jhunjhunu (Zone), Ajmer DISCOM	Sikar
16	K L Jogi	Independent Member – CGRF, Bharatpur (Zone), Jaipur DISCOM	Sawai Madhopur
17	Raman Krishan Solanki	Independent Activist, Advocate	Sawai Madhopur
18	Akshay Sharma	CUTS International	Jaipur
19	Akash Sharma	CUTS International	Jaipur
20	Anshuman Gothwal	Bask Research Foundation	Jaipur
21	Sakshi Gupta	Bask Research Foundation	Jaipur
22	Sushil Khandelwal	Bask Research Foundation	Jaipur
23	Dharmendra Bana	Bask Research Foundation	Jaipur

24	Lalit Pandey	Bask Research Foundation	Jaipur
25	Anuuj Mathuur	Bask Research Foundation	Jaipur

ANNEXURE 2 - PICTURES FROM THE WORKSHOP



