

THE ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTRICITY REFORM ACT 1998

ACT No. 30 OF 1998

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THE ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTRICITY REFORM ACT, 1998

ACT No.30 OF 1998

[29th October, 1998]

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF AN ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION, RESTRUCTURING OF THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY RATIONALISATION OF THE GENERATION, TRANSMISSION DISTRIBUTION AND SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY AVENUES FOR PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY AND GENERALLY FOR TAKING MEASURES CONDUCIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY IN AN EFFICIENT, ECONOMIC AND COMPETATIVE MANNER AND FOR THE MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Andhra Pradesh in the Forty-ninth Year of the Republic of India, as follows:-

PART - I PRELIMINARY

1.Short title, extent and commencement - (1) This Act may be called the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Reform Act, 1998.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification, appoint.

2. Definitions - In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) “area of transmission” means the area within which the holder of a transmission licence is for the time being authorised by licence to transmit energy in accordance with the conditions prescribed;

(b) “APTRANSCO” means the Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited incorporated as a transmission company under the Companies Act, 1956 (Central Act 1 of 1956) and as referred to in section 13 of this Act;

(c) “Commission” means the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission constituted under sub-section (1) of section 3;

(d) “licence” means a licence granted under section 15 of this Act;

(e) “licensee” or “licence holder” means a person licensed under section 14 of the Act to transmit or supply energy including APTRANSCO;

(f) “member or members” means the members of the Commission and shall include the Chairman of the Commission;

(g) “notification” means a notification published in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette and the word “notified” shall be construed accordingly;

(h) “prescribed” means prescribed by the rules or regulations made under this Act;

(i) “regulations” means regulations made by the Commission under this Act;

(j) “rules” means rules made by the State Government under this

Act;

(k) "selection committee" means the selection committee constituted under section 4 of this Act;

(l) "State" means the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(m) "State Government" means the Government of the State;

(n) "supply licence" means a licence under sub-section (1)(b) of section 15;

(o) "transmission licence" means a licence under subsection (1) (a) of section 15;

(p) "transmit" in relation to electricity means the transportation or transmission of electricity by means of a system operated or controlled by a licensee which consists, wholly or mainly, of extra high voltage and extra high tension lines and electrical plant and is used for transforming and for conveying and/or transferring electricity from a generating station to a sub-station, from one generating station to another or from one sub-station to another or otherwise from one place to another;

(q) words and expressions used but not defined in this Act and defined in the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 (Central Act 54 of 1948) have the meanings respectively assigned to them in that Act;

(r) words and expressions used but not defined either in this Act or in the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 (Act No.54 of 1948) and defined in the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 (Act No. IX of 1910) have the meanings respectively assigned to them in that Act.

PART - II

ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

3. Establishment and constitution of the Commission - (1) For the purposes of this Act, within three months of the Act coming into force, the State Government shall establish by notification a Commission to be known as the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission, which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire and hold property, movable and immovable, and shall, by the said name, be entitled to sue and be sued.

(2) The Commission shall consist of a Chairman and two members to be appointed by the State Government from persons selected by the selection committee constituted for the purpose, in the manner provided in section 4 of this Act. The State Government shall specifically designate one of the three members as the Chairman. The inter-se-seniority of the other two members shall be indicated in the orders of appointment.

(3) When the Chairman of the Commission is unable to discharge the functions owing to absence, illness or any other cause, the next senior member of the Commission shall discharge the functions of the Chairman, until the day on which the Chairman assumes office.

4. Constitution of the selection committee to select members - (1) The State Government shall expeditiously constitute a selection committee, as often as may be required to select persons for appointment as members of the Commission, which shall consist of the following, namely:-

- (i) a retired Chief Justice of any High Court or a retired judge of the Supreme Court. -- Chairman
- (ii) Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra

(iii) the Chairman of the Central Electricity Authority --
Member

(2) The Secretary in-charge of the Energy Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh shall be the Convenor for the above Selection Committee.

(3) The selection committee shall call for nominations from general public and from professional bodies, consumer organisations by giving wide publicity, so as to act expeditiously and shall generally finalise the selection within a period of three months to enable the State Government to make the final selection and appointment in time for the new member to take charge at the expiry of the term of the retiring member:

Provided that the selection of the members shall not be restricted to the nominations received.

(4) The selection committee shall submit the panel of two suitable persons for each vacancy in the Commission who have such qualification and experience as provided in the Act, to the State Government in alphabetical order from among whom the State Government shall appoint one of the two as a member of the Commission.

(5) All decisions of the selection committee shall be by majority.

(6) The method and manner of the selection and appointment of members and designation of one of the members as Chairman of the Commission shall be as prescribed by the State Government.

5. Conditions for appointment as member of the Commission – (1) The members of the Commission shall be persons of ability, integrity and standing who have adequate knowledge or experience of, or have shown capacity in dealing with problems relating to engineering, economics, commerce, finance, accountancy, law or administration and that at all times the selection and appointment shall be made in accordance with the qualifications and experience specified below:-

- (i) one member shall be a graduate electrical engineer with adequate experience in generation or transmission or distribution of electricity;
- (ii) two members shall have graduate qualification with specialisation and adequate experience in any of the disciplines like law, economics, commerce, finance, accountancy or administration:

Provided that at any point of time the Commission shall not consist of more than one member from the same discipline:

Provided further that persons below the age of fifty five years shall not be eligible for appointment as Chairman or member, as the case may be.

(2) A person shall be disqualified from being appointed a member of the Commission if he is a member of Parliament or of any State Legislative Assembly or any local authority or holds any post in a political party or if he has any financial or other interest, directly or indirectly, in any private company or undertaking dealing with any of the business referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (3) subject to the conditions specified in sub-section (5).

(3) The persons who are considered for appointment as members of the Commission shall intimate the convenor of the selection committee,-

(a) of any office, employment or consultancy agreement or arrangement which he has in his own name or in any firm, association of persons or body corporate, or in the names of any relative, carrying on any of the following businesses, namely:-

- (i) generation, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity;
- (ii) manufacture, sale or supply of any fuel for generation of electricity;
- (iii) manufacture, sale, lease, hire or otherwise; supply of or dealing in machinery, plant, equipment, apparatus or fittings for the generation, transmission, distribution, supply or use of electricity; and
- (iv) any entity providing professional services to any of the businesses referred to in sub-clauses (i), (ii) and (iii) above;

(b) such other details and information as may be prescribed in the rules.

Explanation:- For the purpose of this section the term relative shall have the same meaning as defined under section 6 of the Companies Act, 1956 (Central Act 1 of 1956).

(4) The details received from the persons shall be placed for consideration of the selection committee at the time of selection and recommendation of the person for appointment as member.

(5) Each member of the Commission shall, before taking charge of the office as member or within such time not exceeding three months after taking charge as may be allowed by the State Government on the recommendation of the selection committee, divest himself from the interest in the businesses mentioned in sub-section (3) of this section as a condition of his appointment.

(6) If a person to be appointed as a member of the Commission holds any office under the State or Central Government or any public sector corporation or any Government body, he shall submit his resignation or take voluntary retirement from that service and shall not seek reappointment in the service of the State Government or any Government corporation or body dealing with the power sector in Andhra Pradesh at any time within a period of two years after he ceases to be a member of the Commission.

(7) So long as the person holds the office of the member and for a period of two years after he ceases to be a member for any reason whatsoever, he shall not acquire, hold or maintain, directly or indirectly any office, employment or consultancy arrangement or businesses mentioned in sub-section (3) of this section within or outside the State and if he acquires any such interest involuntarily or by way of succession or testamentary disposition he will divest himself from such interest within a period of three months of such interest being acquired.

(8) Before recommending any person as a member of the Commission, the selection committee, shall satisfy itself that the person does not have any financial or other interest as referred to in sub-section (3) or otherwise which is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as a member.

6. Term of office conditions of service, etc., of members – (1) Every member shall hold office for a period of five years from the date of his appointment as member or until the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier and he shall not be eligible for re-appointment at any time after the expiry of his term of appointment:

Provided that a member shall be eligible for appointment as Chairman subject to his combined tenure in the Commission as Member and Chairman shall not exceed five years:

Provided further that the first three members shall be appointed for varying periods of three years, four years and five years respectively so as to avoid the retirement of all the members at the same time and ensure continuity in the functioning of the Commission;

Provided also that no person shall be appointed as member after he has attained the age of sixty two years so that he has a minimum tenure of three years as member.

(2) The Chairman of the Commission and other members shall receive such remuneration and other allowances as may be prescribed from time to time under the rules:

Provided that the terms shall not be varied to their disadvantage during the tenure of the appointment.

(3) The Chairman of the Commission and every other member shall before entering upon his office, make and subscribe to an oath of office and of secrecy in such form, in such manner and before such authority as may be prescribed.

7. Removal of Members - (1) The State Government may remove from office any member of the Commission in accordance with sub-section (2), who,-

- (a) has been adjudged as un-discharged insolvent; or
- (b) has been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude; or
- (c) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as such member; or
- (d) has without reasonable cause refused or failed to discharge his functions for a period of at least three months; or
- (e) ceases to fulfill any of the conditions of his appointment as member; or
- (f) has acquired such financial or other interest that can affect prejudicially his functions as a member; or
- (g) has conducted himself in a manner or has so abused his position as to render his continuance in office prejudicial to the public interest or to the objects and purpose of the Act.

(2) Except where a member admits the charge, in writing, no member of the Commission shall be removed from his office on the grounds specified in clauses (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) of sub-section (1) until a sitting Judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, as recommended by the Chief Justice of the High Court at the relevant time, has carried out an enquiry and has forwarded a report to the State Government.

(3) The State Government shall act in accordance with the recommendation in the final report under sub-section (2) and the State Government shall communicate its decision to the member concerned within a period of two months of the receipt of such report.

(4) A member who has been removed shall not be eligible for re-appointment as a member or in any other capacity in the Commission or in the State Government or in any State Government undertakings.

(5) If the member removed under this section is the Chairman of the Commission, he shall cease to be the Chairman of the Commission.

(6) The vacancy, caused by the removal of the member shall be filled in the same manner as provided for the appointment of a member or designation of the Chairman of the Commission.

8. Appointment of the Secretary, Staff and Consultants of the Commission -(1) The Commission shall appoint a person as Secretary of the Commission to assist the Commission to discharge its functions.

(2) The Commission shall, in consultation with the State Government determine the number, nature and categories of other officers and employees required to assist the Commission in the discharge of its functions.

(3) The salaries and allowance payable to the members and the administrative expenses including salaries, allowances and pensions payable to or in respect of the Secretary, officers and other employees of the Commission, shall be charged to the Consolidated Fund of the State.

(4) The method and manner of selection of the Secretary, officers and other employees and the terms and conditions of their service may be prescribed by the Commission by regulations with prior approval of State Government.

(5) The Commission shall be entitled to appoint from time to time consultants required to assist the Commission in the discharge of its functions on terms and conditions to be decided by the Commission.

PART - III PROCEEDINGS, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

9. Proceedings, powers and functions of the Commission - (1) The headquarters of the Commission shall be at Hyderabad in the State, but the Commission shall be entitled to conduct its proceedings, consultations and hearings at any place in the State.

(2) The Commission shall alone have the exclusive power to make regulations for the conduct of its proceedings and discharge of its functions and all such regulations framed shall be published in the Official Gazette.

(3) All decisions of the Commission shall be on the basis of majority of the Members present and voting.

(4) The quorum for the meeting of the Commission shall be two and each member shall have one vote and in case of equality of votes on any issue or resolution, the Chairman or as the case may be the next senior member of the Commission discharging the functions of the Chairman under sub-section (3) of section 3 presiding over the meeting shall, in addition, have a casting vote:

Provided that for a meeting of the Commission to review any previous decision taken by the Commission, the quorum shall be that all members shall be present.

(5) The Chairman of the Commission may instruct the Secretary to call for a meeting of the Commission to be held at such time and at such place as the Chairman may direct. In addition, any member of the Commission may request a meeting of the Commission at any time by sending a notice in writing to the other members under intimation of such notice to the Secretary. The notice of all meetings shall be given to the member in writing, unless all the members waive the notice in writing.

(6) The Commission shall be entitled to decide urgent matters by circulation of the papers to members.

(7) All decisions, directions and orders of the Commission shall be in writing and shall be supported by reason. The decision, direction and orders of the Commission shall be available for inspection by any person and copies of the same shall also be made available in a manner the Commission may prescribe.

(8) No act or proceeding of the Commission shall be deemed invalid by reason only of some defect in the constitution of the Commission or by reason of the existence of a vacancy or vacancies among its members.

10. Powers of the Commission - (1) The Commission shall, for the purposes of any inquiry or proceedings under this Act shall have the powers as are vested in a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Central Act 5 of 1908), while trying a suit in respect of the following matters, namely:-

- (a) the summoning and enforcing of attendance of any witness and examining on oath;
- (b) the discovery and production of any document or other material object producible as evidence;
- (c) the reception of evidence on affidavits;
- (d) the requisition of any public record from any court or office;
- (e) the issue of commission for examination of witnesses;
- (f) the appearance of parties and consequences of non-appearance;
- (g) the grant of adjournments at the hearing.

(2) The Commission shall have the power to require any person,-

- (a) to produce before, and allowed to be examined and kept by an officer of the Commission specified in this behalf, such books, accounts, or other documents in the custody or under the control of the person so required as may be specified or described in the requisition, being documents relating to any matter concerning the generation, transmission, distribution and supply or use of electricity, the functioning of any undertaking involved in the above areas and other matters, the examination of which the Commission considers necessary or relevant for the purposes of this Act or the discharge of the functions by the Commission under this Act; and
- (b) to furnish to an officer so specified such information as may be required for the purposes of, this Act or such other information as may be in his possession in relation to any activity carried on by any other person.

(3) For the purpose of enforcing the attendance of witnesses the local limits of the jurisdiction of the Commission shall be the limits of the territory of India.

(4) The Commission shall have the powers to review its decisions, directions and orders.

(5) Where, during any inquiry or proceedings under this Act, the Commission has any grounds to believe that any books or papers or documents of, or relating to any unit or person in relation to which such inquiry is being made or which the owner of such unit may be required to produce in such inquiry, are being, or may be destroyed, mutilated, altered, falsified or secreted, it may, by a written order authorise any officer of the Commission to exercise the powers of entry, search and seizure as may be exercised by an Inspector appointed for inspection under sections 240 and 240-A of the Companies Act, 1956 (Central Act 1 of 1956).

(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Commission may, by a general or special order, call upon any person including the generating companies or the licensees to furnish to the Commission periodically or as and when required any information concerning the activities carried on by such person related to generation, transmission, distribution and supply or use of electricity, the connection between such person and any other person or undertaking including such other information relating to the organisation, business, cost of production and

other requirements as may be prescribed to enable the Commission to carry out its functions under this Act.

(7) In the discharge of its function the Commission shall be entitled to and shall consult to the extent the Commission considers appropriate from time to time such persons or group of persons who may be affected or are likely to be affected by the decisions of the Commission.

(8) To exercise the powers conferred under this section to call for information, details, books, accounts and other documents from any person and make inquiry for the purposes of providing the same to the Central Electricity Authority, the Central Government, the State Government or other persons. The Central Electricity Authority, the Central Government and the State Government shall be entitled to ask the Commission to make such inquiry and provide the information, details and documents to them.

(9) All persons to whom notices may be issued shall have a statutory obligation under this Act to duly, faithfully and effectively furnish the information, details, books, accounts and other documents, which the Commission considers relevant in connection with its functions under this Act or which may be required to be obtained at the instance of the Central Electricity Authority, the Central Government or the State Government as the case may be and shall be proceeded with and punishable for any failure or delay to comply with such requirements and the directions and orders issued by the Commission.

(10) Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 12 to 16 and sections 18 and 19 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 (Act No.IX of 1910) , for the placing of the electric supply lines, appliances and apparatus for transmission, distribution and supply of energy, the Commission may, by order in writing confer upon licensees or any other person engaged in the business of transmission, distribution or supply of energy to the public under the Act, subject to such conditions and restrictions as the Commission may provide, any of the powers which the telegraph authority possess under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (Act XIII of 1885) with respect to placing of telegraph lines and posts.

11. Functions of the Commission - (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Commission shall be responsible to discharge amongst others the following functions, namely:-

(a) to aid and advise, in matters concerning electricity generation, transmission, distribution and supply in the State;

(b) to regulate the working of the licensees and to promote their working in an efficient, economical and equitable manner including laying down standards of performance for the licensees in regard to services to consumers;

(c) to issue licences in accordance with the provisions of this Act and determine the conditions to be included in the licences;

(d) to promote efficiency, economy and safety in the use of the electricity in the State including and in particular in regard to quality, continuity and reliability of service and enable to meet all such reasonable demands for electricity;

(e) to regulate the purchase, distribution, supply and utilisation of electricity, the quality of service, the tariff and charges payable keeping in view both the interest of the consumer as well as the consideration that the supply and distribution cannot be maintained unless the charges for the electricity supplied are adequately levied and duly collected;

- (f) to promote competitiveness and progressively involve the participation of private sector, while ensuring fair deal to the customers;
- (g) to collect data and forecast on the demand and use of electricity and to require the licensees to collect such data and forecast;
- (h) to require licensees to formulate perspective plans and schemes in co-ordination with others for the promotion of generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity;
- (i) to regulate the assets, properties and interest in properties concerning or related to the electricity industry in the State;
- (j) to lay down a uniform system of accounts among the licensees;
- (k) to regulate working of licensees and promote their working in an efficient economical and equitable manner; and
- (l) to undertake all incidental or ancillary things.

(2) The Commission shall always act consistent with the objectives and purposes for which the Commission has been established as an independent statutory body corporate and all acts, decisions and orders of the Commission shall be pursuant to and shall seek to achieve such objectives and purposes.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions, of section 52 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 (Central Act IX of 1910) or the provisions of section 3 (1) (ii) and section 76 of the Electricity (supply) Act, 1948 (Central Act 54 of 1948), the Commission shall have the power to act as arbitrator or nominate arbitrator or arbitrators to adjudicate and settle the disputes arising between the licenses in accordance with the regulations to be prescribed and this shall be a condition precedent of the grant of licences.

PART - IV POWERS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT

12. General powers of the State Government - (1) The State Government shall have the power to issue policy directions on matters concerning electricity in the State including the overall planning and co-ordination. All policy direction shall be issued by the State Government consistent with the objects sought to be achieved by this Act and accordingly shall not adversely affect or interfere with the functions and powers of the Commission including but not limited to determination of the structure of tariffs for supply of electricity to various classes of consumers.

(2) If any dispute arises between the Commission and the State Government as to whether or not a question is a matter of policy or whether a policy direction issued by the State Government adversely affects or interferes with the exercise of the functions of the Commission, the same shall be referred by the State Government to a retired judge of the Supreme Court in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court whose decision thereon shall be final and binding.

(3) The State Government shall be entitled to issue policy directions concerning the subsidies to be allowed for supply of electricity to any class or classes of persons or in respect of any area in addition to the subsidies permitted by the Commission while regulating and approving the tariff structure provided that the State Government shall contribute the amount to compensate such concerned body or unit affected by the grant of the subsidies by the State Government to the extent of the subsidies granted. The Commission shall determine the amounts and the terms and conditions and time frame on which such amounts are to be paid by the State Government.

(4) The State Government shall consult the Commission in relation to any proposed legislation or rules concerning any policy direction and shall duly take into account the recommendation by the Commission on all such matters.

PART - V APTRANSCO

13. Constitution and functions of the "APTRANSCO" - (1) Not later than sixty days of the Act coming into force the State Government shall constitute APTRANSCO to be incorporated and organised under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 (Central Act 1 of 1956) as the Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited, with the principal objects of engaging in the business of procurement, transmission and supply of electric energy.

(2) Subject to the powers of the State Government under section 12, the APTRANSCO established by the State Government in terms of sub-section (1) shall be the principal company to undertake all planning and co-ordination in regard to transmission; undertaking the works connected with transmission, determining the electricity requirements in the State in co-ordination with the Generating companies, State Government, the Commission, the Regional Electricity Boards, and the Central Electricity Authority; the operation of the power system.

(3) APTRANSCO shall own the extra high voltage transmission system, shall be responsible for the transmission system operation and shall operate the power system in an efficient manner.

(4) APTRANSCO shall undertake the functions specified in this section and such other functions as may be assigned to it by the licence to be granted to it by the Commission under this Act.

(5) Upon the grant of licence to the APTRANSCO under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 15 of this Act, the APTRANSCO shall discharge such powers and perform such duties and functions of the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board including those under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 or the rules framed thereunder as the Commission may specify in the licence and it shall be the statutory obligation of the APTRANSCO to undertake and duly discharge the powers, duties and functions so assigned.

(6) Subject to the provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2) and to the overall supervision and control of the APTRANSCO a number of subsidiary or associated transmission companies may be established in the State and the Commission may grant licences under the terms of this Act to such transmission companies, in consultation with the APTRANSCO.

PART - VI LICENSING OF TRANSMISSION AND SUPPLY

14. Licensing - (1) No person, other than those authorised to do so by licence or by virtue of exemption under this Act or authorised to or exempted by any other authority under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, shall engage in the State in the business of,-

- (a) transmitting electricity; or
- (b) supplying electricity.

(2) Where any difference or dispute arises as to whether any person is engaged or is not engaged or about to engage in the business of transmitting or supplying electricity as specified in sub-section (1), the matter shall be referred to the Commission and the decision of the Commission shall be final.

(3) The Commission shall have the power to order any unlicensed person to cease operating and disconnect its apparatus.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provisions of this Act and until the establishment of the Commission in terms of section 3, the State Government shall have the power to grant provisional licences under this section having a duration not exceeding twelve months to any person or persons to engage in the state in the business of transmission or supply of electricity on such terms and conditions as the State Government may determine consistent with the provisions of this Act, subject to the following conditions namely:-

(a) upon the establishment of the Commission, each of the provisional licences granted by the State Government shall be placed before the Commission and shall be deemed to constitute an application for grant of a licence by the Commission under the provisions of this Act; and

(b) each provisional licence granted under this section shall cease to be valid from the date notified by the Commission.

(5) The State Government, shall be entitled to confer on the provisional licensees under sub-section (4) such powers, rights and authorisation as the Commission is entitled to grant to the licensees under this Act.

15. Grant of licences by the Commission - (1) The Commission may on an application made in such form and on payment of such fee, as may be prescribed, grant a licence authorising any person to,-

(a) transmit electricity in a specified area of transmission; or

(b) supply electricity in a specified area of supply including bulk supply to licensees or any person.

(2) In respect of the grant of any such licence the following procedure shall be followed namely:-

(a) any person applying for a licence shall publish a notice of his application in such manner, and with such particulars as may be prescribed by the Commission within 14 days after making the application;

(b) the Commission, shall not grant a licence until,-

(i) all objections received relating to the application for the licence have been considered by the Commission; provided that no objection shall be considered by the Commission unless it is received within three months of the date of the first publication of the notice under clause (a) above; and

(ii) in the case of an application for a licence to supply or transmit in an area which includes the whole or part of any cantonment, aerodrome, fortress, arsenal, dockyard or camp or of any building or place in the occupation of the Central Government for defence purposes, the Commission shall ascertain whether there is any objection to the grant of the licence on the part of the Central Government;

(c) where an objection is received from any local authority concerned, the Commission shall, if in its opinion the objection is insufficient, record in writing and communicate to such local authority its reasons for such opinion; and

(d) no application for a licence shall be made by any local authority except pursuant to a resolution passed at a meeting of such authority held after one month's previous notice of the same specifying the purpose thereof has been given in the manner in which notices of meetings of such local authority are usually given.

(3) A licence shall prescribe the duration, extent to which and the terms and conditions under which the transmission or supply of energy is to be made and contain such other conditions as the Commission may consider appropriate for achieving the purposes of the Act.

(4) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (3), the conditions included in a licence by virtue of that sub-section may require the licensee to,-

- (a) enter into agreements on specified terms with other persons for the use of any electric lines, electrical plant or plants and associated equipment operated by the licensee;
- (b) comply with any direction given by the Commission;
- (c) act in accordance with the terms of the licence;
- (d) refer all disputes arising under the licence for determination by the Commission;
- (e) furnish information, documents and details which the Commission may require for its own purpose or for the purposes of the Central or State Government or Central Electricity Authority;
- (f) comply with the requirements of the India Electricity Act, 1910; and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 or rules framed thereunder in so far as they are applicable;
- (g) undertake such functions and obligations of the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board under the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 as the Commission may prescribe;
- (h) obtain the approval of the Commission of such things that are required under the licence conditions or for deviation from the same;
- (i) notify the Commission of any scheme that he is proposing to undertake including the schemes in terms of the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948;
- (j) purchase power in an economical manner and under a transparent power purchase process; and
- (k) supply in bulk to other licensees or to customers.

(5) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (3), the conditions included in a licence granted by the Commission may require the holder of such a licence to establish a tariff or to calculate its charges from time to time in accordance with the requirements prescribed by the Commission.

(6) The provisions contained in the Schedule to the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 shall be deemed to be incorporated with, and to form part of every supply licence granted under this Part save in so far as they are expressly varied or excepted by the supply licence and shall, subject to any such additions, variations or exceptions which the Commission is empowered to make having regard to the purposes of the Act, apply to the undertaking authorised by the licence in relation to its activities in the State:

Provided that where a supply licence is granted by the Commission for the supply of energy to other licensees for distribution by them, then in so far as such licence relates to such supply, the provisions of clauses IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and XII of the said Schedule shall not be deemed to be incorporated within the supply licence.

(7) The conditions included in a licence may contain provision for the conditions to cease to have effect or be modified at such times, in such manner and in such circumstances as may be specified in or determined by or under the conditions.

(8) Any provisions included by virtue of sub-section (7) above in a licence shall have effect in addition to the provision made by sub-section (5) of section 18 and section 19 with respect to the amendment of the conditions of a licence.

(9) Unless indicated in the terms of a licence, the grant of a licence under this section to a person shall not in any way hinder or restrict the grant of a licence to another person within the same area of supply for a like purpose and accordingly the licensee shall not claim any exclusivity.

(10) The licence granted by the Commission in term of this Act may provide that the licensee shall have the powers and authority to take appropriate actions for revenue realisation, prosecution for theft, meter tampering, diversion of electricity, and all such and similar matters affecting the distribution and supply of electricity to the consumer;

(11) The Commission shall be entitled to authorise the licensees and persons to exercise such power and authority as the licensees and persons could be given under the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

16. Exemptions from the requirement to have a licence- (1) The Commission may make regulations to grant exemptions from the requirement to have a supply licence, but subject to compliance with such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the order:

Provided that the Commission shall not, under any such regulation, grant any exemption except with the consent,-

(i) of the local authority, if any, constituted in the area where energy is to be supplied;

(ii) in any case where energy is to be supplied in any area forming part of any cantonment, aerodrome, fortress, arsenal, dockyard or camp or any building or place in the occupation of the Central Government for defence purposes, of the Central Government;

(iii) in any area falling within the area of supply of a licensee, of that licensee:

Provided that except in a case falling under clause (ii) no such consent shall be necessary if the Commission is satisfied that such consent has been unreasonably withheld.

(2) An exemption may be granted,-

- (a) to persons of a particular category; or
- (b) to a particular person; or
- (c) for a particular period;

and an exemption to persons of a particular category or to a particular person shall be published in such manner as the Commission considers appropriate for bringing it to the attention of that person or persons of that category and of the public in general.

(3) The exemption granted may be revoked by the Commission at any time for reasons to be recorded in writing.

(4) An exemption, unless previously revoked, shall continue in force for such period as may be specified in or determined by or under the exemption.

(5) Every regulation or exemption made by the Commission under this Act shall be published in the Official Gazette.

17. General Duties and Powers of the licensees - (1) It shall be the duty of the holder of a supply licence or a transmission licence in respect of a particular area to develop, maintain and provide to the consumers or the licensees as the case may be or any other person an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity supply or transmission in the area of transmission or area of supply, as the case may be.

(2) Each licensee and Generating Company in discharge of its duties shall comply with the provisions of the regulations framed from time to time governing the terms and conditions for the operation and maintenance of power system and electric supply lines.

(3) Subject to sub-section (4) of section 12 and sections 13 to 19 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 (Which relate to the carrying out of works) shall have effect in relation to a person authorised by a licence under this Act to transmit or supply electricity as if he is a licensee in that Act.

(4) Where any of the sections mentioned in sub-section (3) above is applied to a licence holder by his licence, it shall have effect subject to such restrictions, exceptions and conditions as may be included in the licence.

18. Revocation of licences - (1) The Commission may inquire into the conduct or functioning of any licensee in carrying out the obligations under the Act or rules or regulations framed thereunder or the terms and conditions of its licence,-

(a) upon receiving a complaint from any consumer or consumer association or any trade association; or

(b) upon a reference made to it by the State Government or by the Central Government or the Central Electricity Authority; or

(c) upon receiving a complaint from any company or person involved in the generation, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity; or

(d) upon its own knowledge or information derived from any source.

(2) Upon making such inquiry the Commission may, if in its opinion the public interest so requires, revoke a licence in any of the following cases, namely:-

(a) where the licensee, in the opinion of the Commission, has committed a willful or unreasonable default in doing anything required of him by or under this Act, the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, or the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, or rules made thereunder to the extent applicable in the State read with the provisions of this Act;

(b) where the licensee commits a breach of any of the terms and conditions of his licence the breach of which is expressly declared by such licence to render it liable to revocation.

(c) where the licensee fails within the period specified in his licence or any longer period which the Commission may allow by order,-

(i) to show, to the satisfaction of the Commission, that he is in a position to fully and efficiently discharge the duties and obligations imposed on him by his licence; and

(ii) to make the deposit or furnish the security required by his licence; and

(d) where in the opinion of the Commission the financial position of the licensee is such that he is unable to fully and efficiently discharge the duties and obligations imposed on him by his licence.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2) where in its opinion the public interest so requires, the Commission may, on the application or with the consent of the licensee, and if the licensee is not a local authority, after consulting the local authority concerned, if any, revoke a transmission or supply licence as to the whole or any part of the area of transmission or supply upon such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

(4) No licence shall be revoked under sub-section (2) or (3) unless the Commission has given to the licensee not less than three months notice in writing stating the grounds on which it is proposed to revoke the licence and has considered any cause shown by the licensee within the period of that notice, against the proposed revocation and has given reasons for such revocation.

(5) The Commission may, instead of revoking the licence, permit it to remain in force subject to such further terms and conditions as it thinks fit to impose and any further terms or conditions so imposed shall be binding upon, and be observed by, the licensee, and be of like force and effect as if they were contained in the licence.

19. Amendment of licences - (1) The Commission may where in its opinion the public interest so permits or requires, on the application of the licensee and if the licensee is not a local authority, on the application of the local authority concerned or otherwise on its own may make such alterations and amendments to the terms and conditions of a licence as it thinks fit taking into account the objects and purposes of the Act:

Provided that no such alterations or amendments, other than an alteration or amendment pursuant to a licence condition referred to in sub-section (7) of section 15 or sub-section (5) of section 18 shall be made except with the consent of the licensee.

(2) Where the licensee has made an application under sub-section (1) proposing any alterations or amendments in his licence, the following provisions shall apply,-

(a) the licensee shall publish a notice of the application in the manner and with the particulars as may be prescribed by the Commission;

(b) the Commission shall not make any alterations or amendments until all objections received by it with reference to the application within three months from the date of the first publication of the notice have been considered; and

(c) in the case of an application proposing alterations or amendments in an area of supply comprising the whole or any part of the cantonment, aerodrome, fortress, arsenal, dockyard or camp or of any building or place in the occupation of the Central Government for defence purposes, the Commission shall not make any alterations or amendments except with the consent of the Central Government.

(3) Before making any alterations or amendments in a licence otherwise than on the application of the licensee, the Commission shall publish the proposed alterations or amendments and consider all objections received by it with reference to the proposed alterations or amendments within three months from the date of the first publication of the notice.

20. Provisions where licence is revoked - (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 6 and 7 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 where the Commission revokes a licence, under sub-section (2) of section 18, the following provisions shall apply:-

(a) the Commission shall serve a notice of revocation upon the licensee and shall fix a date on which the revocation shall take effect with effect from that date or with effect from the earlier date on which the undertaking of the licensee is sold to a purchaser in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Act, all the rights, duties, obligations and

liabilities of the licensee under this Act shall absolutely cease and determine except for any liabilities that have accrued to that date;

(b) the Commission shall invite applications for acquiring the undertaking of the licensee whose licence has been revoked and determine terms and conditions of the sale of the undertaking;

(c) the Commission may, by notice in writing, require the licensee to sell, and thereupon the licensee shall sell the undertaking to the person whose application has been accepted by the Commission. Such person is referred to in this section as the "purchaser"; and

(d) the Commission may make such interim arrangement in regard to the undertaking of the licensee for maintaining the electricity transmission and supply as may be considered appropriate including the appointment of administrators and special directors for the undertaking.

(2) Where an undertaking is sold under sub-section (1), the purchaser shall pay to the licensee the purchase price of the undertaking determined in accordance with the application submitted by the purchaser.

(3) Where the Commission issues any notice under sub-section (1) requiring the licensee to sell the undertaking, it may by such notice require the licensee to deliver, and thereupon the licensee shall deliver on a date specified in the notice, the undertaking to the designated purchaser pending the payment of the purchase price of the undertaking. Any pending fines and charges shall be deducted from the amounts payable to the licensee:

Provided that in any such case, the purchaser shall pay to the licensee interest at such rate not less than the Reserve Bank lending rate ruling at the time of delivery of the undertaking as the Commission may decide, on the purchase price of the undertaking for the period from the date of delivery of the undertaking to the date of payment of the purchase price.

(4) Where before the date fixed in the notice issued under clause (a) of sub-section (1) as the date on which the revocation of the licence shall take effect, no notice has been issued to the licensee requiring him to sell the undertaking or where for any reason no sale of the undertaking has been effected under that sub-section, the State Government shall acquire the undertaking on the date of revocation of the licence and shall pay to the licensee an amount determined in accordance with sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 7-A of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, as amended in the State and shall perform all the obligations of the licensee until such time as the State Government is able to sell the undertaking to a new licensee which it shall endeavour to do expeditiously without undue delay.

(5) The licensee shall duly implement the orders of the Commission, notwithstanding that the licensee may be aggrieved by the order of the Commission and intends to take legal action challenging the orders of the Commission.

21. Restrictions on licensees and Generating Companies - (1) No licensee or Generating Company shall at any time, without the previous consent in writing of the Commission, acquire by purchase or otherwise the licence or the undertaking of, or associate himself with, so far as the business of generating, transmitting distribution or supply of energy is concerned, any other licensee or person generating, transmitting, supplying or intending to generate, transmit or supply electricity:

Provided that before granting the consent the Commission shall hear such person or authority as the Commission shall consider appropriate.

(2) The licensee shall not, at any time, assign his licence or transfer his undertaking, or any part thereof, by sale, mortgage, lease, exchange or otherwise without the previous consent in writing of the Commission.

(3) The provisions of section 44 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 shall apply except that the persons to whom the section applies shall be required to obtain the sanctions and consents from the Commission, instead of such sanctions and consents to be obtained from the Board as provided under that section.

(4) A holder of a supply or transmission licence may, unless expressly, prohibited by the terms of its licence, enter into arrangements for the purchase of electricity from,-

(a) the holder of a supply licence which permits the holder of such licence to supply energy to other licensees for distribution by them; and

(b) any person or Generating Company with the consent of the Commission.

(5) Any agreement relating to any transaction of the nature described in sub-sections (1), (2), (3) or (4) unless made with or subject to such consent as aforesaid, shall be void.

22. Annual Accounts of licensee - Every licensee shall, unless expressly exempted by the licence, prepare and render to the Commission every year on or before the date specified in the licence, an annual statement or statements of accounts of its undertaking and of each separate business unit as specified in the licence made up to such date, in such form and containing such particulars, as may be set out in the licence. It shall be a term of the licence that such statements shall be published in manner prescribed in the regulations.

PART - VII

REORGANISATION OF THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

23. Reorganisation of State Electricity Board - (1) With effect from the date on which a transfer scheme prepared by the State Government to give effect to the objects and purposes of this Act is published or such further date as may be prescribed by the State Government (hereinafter referred to as the effective date), any property, interest in property, rights and liabilities which immediately before the effective date belong to the Board shall vest in the State Government on such terms as may be agreed between the State Government and the Board.

(2) Any property, interest in property, rights and liabilities vested in the State Government under sub-section (1) shall be re-vested by the State Government in the APTRANSCO and generating company or companies, in accordance with the transfer scheme so published along with such other property, interest in property, rights and liabilities of State Government as may be specified in such scheme, on such terms and conditions as may be agreed between the State Government and the APTRANSCO or generating company or companies, as the case may be.

Explanation:- For the purposes of this Part generating company or companies, shall mean the company or companies to be incorporated to implement the reorganisation of the Electricity Industry in the State.

(3) Such of the rights and powers exercisable by the Board under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 as the State Government may, by notification specify, shall be exercisable by the APTRANSCO or generating company or companies, as the case may be, for the purpose of discharging the functions and duties with which it is charged.

(4) Notwithstanding anything in this section, where,-

(a) the transfer scheme involves the transfer of any property or rights to any person or undertaking not wholly owned by the State Government, the scheme shall give effect to the transfer only for fair value to be paid by the transferee to the State Government.

(b) a transaction of any description is effected in pursuance of a transfer scheme, it shall be binding on all persons including third parties and even if such persons, third parties have not consented to it.

(5) The State Government may, after consulting the APTRANSCO (the "transferor licensee"), or generating company or companies, as the case may be, require them to draw up a transfer scheme to vest in a further licensee (the "transferee licensee") or any generating companies, any of the functions including distribution function, property, interest in property, rights and liabilities which have been vested in the transferor licensee or generating companies, as the case may be, under this section and publish the same as Statutory Transfer Scheme under this Act. The transfer scheme to be notified under this sub-section shall have the same effect as the Transfer Scheme under subsection (2).

(6) A transfer scheme may,-

(a) provide for the formation of subsidiaries, joint venture companies or other schemes of division, amalgamation, merger, reconstruction or arrangements;

(b) define the property, interest in property, rights and liabilities to be allocated:-

- (i) by specifying or describing the property, rights and liabilities in question;
- (ii) by referring to all the property, interest in property, rights and liabilities comprised in a specified part of the transferor's undertaking; or
- (iii) partly in the one way and partly in the other;

(c) provide that any rights or liabilities specified or described in the scheme shall be enforceable by or against the transferor or the transferee;

(d) impose on the licensee an obligation to enter into such written agreements with or execute such other instruments in favour of, any other subsequent licensee as may be specified in the scheme;

(e) make such supplemental, incidental and consequential provisions as the transferor licensee considers appropriate including provision specifying the order in which any transfer or transaction is to be regarded as taking effect; and

(f) provide that the transfer shall be provisional for a specified period.

(7) All debts and obligations incurred, all contracts entered into and all matters and things engaged to be done by the Board, with the Board or for the Board, or the APTRANSCO or generating company or companies before a transfer scheme becomes effective shall, to the extent specified in the relevant transfer scheme, be deemed to have been incurred, entered into or done by the Board, with the Board or for the State Government or the transferee and all suits or other legal proceedings instituted by or against the Board or transferor, as the case may be, may be continued or instituted by or against the State Government or concerned transferee, as the case may be.

(8) In the event that a licensee is required to vest any part of its undertaking in another licensee pursuant to sub-section (5), the Commission shall amend the transferee's licence in accordance with section 19 or revoke its licence in accordance with section 18.

(9) The Board shall cease to be charged with, and shall not perform, the functions and duties specified in sub-section (3) with regard to transfers made on and after the effective date.

(10) The exercise by a licensee of any of the Board's rights and powers may be made on such conditions as may be specified in the transfer scheme including a condition that they shall be exercised by the licensee only with the approval of the Commission.

24. Provisions relating to Personnel - (1) The State Government, may by a transfer scheme provide for the transfer of the personnel to APTRANSCO, generating company or companies, distribution or other companies hereinafter referred to as the transferee company or companies; on the vesting of properties, rights and liabilities in such transferee companies as provided under section 23.

(2) Upon such transfer scheme the personnel, shall hold office or service under the transferee company on terms and conditions that may be determined in accordance with the transfer scheme:

Provided that such terms and conditions on the transfer shall not in any way be less favourable than those which would have been applicable to them if there had been no such vesting:

Provided further that any such scheme under sub-sections (1) and (2) shall be consistent with the tripartite agreements entered into between the Government, A.P.S.E.B. and the employees.

Explanation:- For the purposes of this section as well as the transfer scheme the term "personnel" shall mean all persons who on the effective date are the employees of the Board.

25. Payment of compensation or damages on transfer - Notwithstanding anything contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 or any other law as is applicable, and except for the provisions made in this Act, the transfer of the employment of the personnel referred to in sub-section (1) of section 24 shall not entitle such employees to any compensation or damages under this Act, or any other Central or State law or under the general law, save as provided in the transfer scheme.

PART - VIII TARIFFS

26. Licensee's revenues and tariff - (1) The holder of each licence granted under this Act shall observe the methodologies and procedures specified by the Commission from time to time in calculating the expected revenue from charges which it is permitted to recover pursuant to the terms of its licence and in designing tariffs to collect those revenues.

(2) The Commission shall subject to the provisions of sub-section (3) be entitled to prescribe the terms and conditions for the determination of the licensee's revenue and tariffs by regulations duly published in the Official Gazette and in such other manner as the Commission considers appropriate:

Provided that in doing so the Commission shall be bound by the following parameters:-

(a) the financial principles and their applications provided in the Sixth Schedule to the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 read with sections 57 and 57-A of the said Act;

(b) the factors which would encourage efficiency, economic use of the resources, good performance, optimum investments performance of licence conditions and other matters which the Commission considers appropriate keeping in view the salient objects and purposes of the provisions of this Act; and

(c) the interest of the consumers.

(3) Where the Commission, departs from factors specified in the Sixth Schedule of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 while determining the licensee's revenues and tariffs, it shall record the reasons therefor in writing.

(4) Any methodology or procedure specified by the Commission under sub-sections (1), (2), and (3) above shall be to ensure that the objectives and purposes of the Act are duly achieved.

(5) Every licensee shall provide to the Commission in a format as specified by the Commission at least 3 months before the ensuing financial year full details of its calculation for that financial year of the expected aggregate revenue from charges which it believes it is permitted to recover pursuant to the terms of its licence and thereafter it shall furnish such further information as the Commission may reasonably require to assess the licensee's calculation. Within 90 days of the date on which the licensee has furnished all the information that the Commission requires, the Commission shall notify the licensee either--

(a) that it accepts the licensee's tariff proposals and revenue calculations, or

(b) that it does not consider the licensee's tariff proposals and revenue calculations to be in accordance with the methodology or procedure in its licence, and such notice to the licensee shall,--

(i) specify fully the reasons why the Commission considers that the licensee's calculation does not comply with the methodology or procedures specified in its licence or is in any way incorrect, and

(ii) propose a modification or an alternative calculation of the expected revenue from charges, which the licensee shall accept.

(6) Each holder of a supply licence shall publish in the daily newspaper having circulation in the area of supply and make available to the public on request the tariff or tariffs for the supply of electricity within its licensed area and such tariff or tariffs shall take effect only after seven days from the date of such publication.

(7) Any tariff implemented under this section,--

(a) shall not show undue preference to any consumer of electricity, but may differentiate according to the consumer's load factor or power factor, the consumer's total consumption of energy during any specified period, or the time at which supply is required; or paying capacity of category of consumers and need for cross-subsidisation;

(b) shall be just and reasonable and be such as to promote economic efficiency in the supply and consumption of electricity; and

(c) shall satisfy all other relevant provisions of this Act and the conditions of the relevant licence.

(8) The commission also shall endeavour to fix tariff in such a manner that, as far as possible, similarly placed consumers in different areas pay similar tariff.

(9) No tariff or part of any tariff required by sub-section (6) may be amended more frequently than once in any financial year ordinarily except in respect of any changes expressly permitted under the terms of any fuel surcharge formula prescribed by regulations. At least three months before the proposed date for implementation of any tariff or an amendment to a tariff the licensee shall provide details of the proposed tariff or amendment to a tariff to the Commission, together with such further information as the Commission may require to determine whether the tariff or amended tariff would satisfy the

provisions of sub-section (7). If the Commission considers that the proposed tariff or amended tariff of a licensee does not satisfy any of the provisions of sub-section (7), it shall, within 60 days of receipt of all the information which it required, and after consultation with the Commission Advisory Committee and the licensee, notify the licensee that the proposed tariff or amended tariff is unacceptable to the Commission and it shall provide to the licensee an alternative tariff or amended tariff which shall be implemented by the licensee. The licensee shall not amend any tariff unless the amendment has been approved by the Commission.

(10) Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 57-A and 57-B of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, no Rating Committee shall be constituted after the date of this enactment and the Commission shall secure that licensees comply with the provisions of their licences regarding their charges for the sale of electricity (both wholesale and retail) and for the connection to and use of their assets or systems in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Explanation:-

In this section,-

(a) "the expected revenue from charges" means the total revenue which a licensee is expected to recover from charges for the level of forecast supply used in the determination under sub-section (5) above in any financial year in respect of goods or services supplied to customers pursuant to a licensed activity; and

(b) "tariff" means a schedule of standard prices or charges for specified services which are applicable to all such specified services provided to the type or types of customers specified in the tariff notification.

27. Finances of licensees - (1) The State Government may from time to time make subventions to any licensee for the purpose of sub-section (3) of section 12 of this Act or the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 for such amounts as may be recommended by the Commission and on such terms and conditions as the State Government may determine.

(2) The State Government may from time to time advance loans to any licensee or Generating Company which for the time being is wholly or partly owned by the State Government on such terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act or the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, as the State Government may determine.

(3) The State Government may guarantee in such manner as it thinks fit the re-payment of the principal on the payment of interest (or both) or any loan proposed to be raised by any licensee or Generating Company which is for the time being wholly or partly owned by the State Government or the discharge of any other financial obligation of any such licensee or Generating Company.

(4) The State Government shall be entitled to inspect and verify the accounts of every licensee or generating company obtaining the benefits under sub-sections (1) (2) and (3) of this section.

PART - IX COMMISSION'S POWER TO PASS ORDERS AND ENFORCE DECISIONS

28. Interim orders for securing compliance - (1) Where the Commission is satisfied that a licensee is contravening, or is likely to contravene any relevant condition or requirement of its licence, it shall by final order under section 29 and, if it thinks it appropriate, in accordance with sub-section (2) by interim order under this section, issue such directions as it deems proper for securing compliance.

(2) In determining whether it is appropriate that an interim order be made, the Commission shall have regard, in particular to,-

(a) the extent to which the contravention or likely contravention by the licensee will affect the achievement of the objects and purposes of this Act;

(b) the extent to which any person is likely to sustain loss or damage in consequence of anything which, is likely to be done, or omitted to be done, in contravention of the relevant condition or requirement, before a final order can be made; and

(c) the extent to which (having regard to the following provisions of this section) there is any other available remedy in respect of the alleged contravention of a relevant condition or requirement.

(3) If the Commission proposes to make an interim order, it shall give notice to the licensee,-

(a) stating that it proposes to make the order;

(b) setting out,-

(i) the relevant conditions or requirements which the proposed order is intended to secure compliance;

(ii) the acts or omissions which, in its opinion constitute contravention of that condition or requirement;

(iii) the other facts which in its opinion, justify the making of the proposed order; and

(iv) the effects of the proposed order.

(c) specifying the period (being not less than 5 days from the date of notice) within which the licensee may make representations or objections to the proposed order.

(4) Subject to sub-section (5), having considered any representations or objections from the licensee pursuant to clause (c) of sub-section (3) the Commission may make an interim order at any time after expiry of the period referred to in sub-section (3) (c), if,-

(a) the Commission has reason to believe that the licensee to whom the order relates has contravened or is contravening or is likely to contravene any relevant condition or requirement; and

(b) the provisions made by the order are requisite for the purpose of securing compliance with that condition or requirement.

(5) The Commission may not make an interim order if it is satisfied that the licensee has agreed to take and is taking all such steps as the Commission considers that the licensee should take to secure compliance with the condition or requirement in question.

(6) an interim order,-

(a) shall require the licensee to whom it relates (according to the circumstances of the case) to do, or not to do, such things as are specified in the order or are of a description so specified;

(b) shall take effect from such time, being the earliest practicable time, as is determined by the order; and

(c) may be revoked, modified or rescinded at any time by the Commission, but in any event shall cease to have effect at the end of such period as is stated in the order unless the Commission is at that time following the procedure set out in section 29 to declare the interim order to be a final order.

(7) As soon as practicable after making an interim order, the Commission shall,-

- (a) serve a copy of the order on the licensee to whom the order relates;
- (b) publish the order in such manner as it considers appropriate for the purpose of bringing it to the attention of persons likely to be affected by it; and
- (c) commence proceedings to declare the interim orders to be a final order in accordance with section 29.

29. Final orders for securing Compliance - (1) If the Commission proposes to make a final order or to declare an interim order to be a final order, the Commission shall give notice,-

- (a) stating that it proposes to make the final order or to declare the interim order to be a final order;
- (b) setting out the information referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (3) of section 28 in respect of the proposed final order; and
- (c) specifying the period (being not less than 60 days from the date of publication of the notice) within which representations or objections to the proposed order may be made; and shall consider any representations or objections that are duly made and not withdrawn. The Commission shall publish notice of such representations or objections and specify a period (being not less than 30 days from the date of publication of the notice) within which further representations or objections may be made.

(2) A notice under sub-section (1), above shall be given,-

- (a) by publishing the notice in such manner as the Commission considers appropriate for the purpose of bringing the matters to which the notice relates to the attention of persons likely to be affected by them; and
- (b) by serving a copy of the notice, and a copy of the proposed final order on the licensee to whom the order relates.

(3) The Commission shall not modify the proposed final order as a result of any representation or objections received following publication of the notice referred to in sub-section (1), except,-

- (a) with the consent to the modification of the licensee to whom the proposed final order relates; and
- (b) after complying with the requirements of sub-section (4) below.

(4) The requirements mentioned sub-section (3) above are that the Commission shall,-

- (a) serve on the licensee, to whom the proposed final order relates such notice as appears to the Commission requisite of its proposal to modify the proposed final order, together with details of such modifications;
- (b) in that notice specify the period (being not less than 30 days from the date of the service of the notice) within which representations or objections to the proposed modifications can be made; and
- (c) consider any representations or objections which are duly made and not withdrawn within 10 days of the receipt thereof.

(5) The provisions of clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (6) of section 28 shall apply to final orders.

(6) As soon as practicable after making a final order, the Commission shall with respect to the final order, follow the procedure set out in clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (7) of section 28.

(7) The Commission may revoke a final order at any time, but before revoking a final order the Commission shall give notice,-

(a) stating that it proposes to revoke the order and setting out its effect; and

(b) specifying the period being not less than 30 days from the date of delivery of the notice within which representations or objections to the proposed publication may be made, and shall consider any representations or objections which are duly made and not withdrawn within 10 days of the receipt thereof.

(8) If, after giving a notice under sub-section (7) above, the Commission decides not to revoke the final order to which the notice relates, it shall give notice of its decision to the concerned persons.

(9) A notice under sub-section (7) or (8) above shall be given by the procedure set out in clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (7) of section 28.

30. Effect and enforcement of Interim and Final Orders and emergency provision - (1) Without prejudice to section 46 of this Act, all orders and directions, interim or final, passed by the Commission shall be enforceable in law as if it were a decree passed by a Civil Court.

(2) The Commission shall be entitled to take such assistance of the police and other authorities in the State required to effectively enforce the orders and directions given by the Commission.

(3) The Commission shall be entitled to give directions for vesting of the management and control of any undertaking of the licensee with the assets, interests and rights of the undertaking with any other persons or authority pending any inquiry and passing of interim or final orders in the matter, if the Commission considers, taking into account the objects and purposes of this Act and the need to maintain continued supply of electricity in an efficient and safe manner to the consumer, it is necessary and expedient to pass such orders or directions. Such directions or orders shall not be questioned on the ground that no prior notice of or hearing on the intention to pass the order or direction was given to the licensee. The Commission shall however give opportunity to the licensee and hear the licensee before passing further orders in terms of sections 28 and 29 of this Act.

31. Fines and Charges - (1) The Commission shall be entitled to impose such fines and charges as may be prescribed by the Commission in the regulations for non compliance or violation on the part of the Generating Companies, licensees or other persons, of the provisions or requirements of this Act or, rules and regulations framed thereunder and directions or orders of the Commission made from time to time. The fines which the Commission shall be entitled to impose may extend up to Rs.5,00,000 (five lakhs) for an act of non-compliance or violation and a further amount not exceeding Rs.20,000 (twenty thousand) for every day during which the non-compliance or violation continues.

(2) The Commission shall, while making an interim or final orders under this Part, shall be entitled to direct compensation to be paid by the person guilty of violation or non-compliance as provided in sub-section (1) to the person or persons affected by such violation or non-compliance.

(3) The fines, charges and compensation which may be imposed by the Commission under this section shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other liability, which the person guilty of violation or non-compliance, may have incurred.

31-A General control of the Commission - The generating company (ies) shall comply with the regulations that may be framed by the Commission concerning the operation and maintenance of the power system and electric supply lines in an efficient and economical manner.

PART - X
ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CONSUMER CONSULTATION

32. Commission Advisory Committee - (1) The Commission shall constitute a Committee to be known as the Commission Advisory Committee, in consultation with the State Government which shall consist of such number of persons being not less than 15 and not more than 21 as the Commission may appoint after consultation with such representatives or bodies representative of the following interests as the Commission thinks fit, that is to say, holders of supply licences in the State, holders of transmission licences in the State, generating companies operating in the State, Commerce, Industry, Transport, Agriculture, Labour employed in the electricity supply industry and consumers of electricity.

(2) The Chairman and members of the Commission shall be ex-officio Chairman and Members of the Commission Advisory Committee.

(3) The term of the members of advisory Committee shall be for a period of three years and one third of the members shall retire annually.

(4) The Commission Advisory Committee shall meet at least once in every three months.

(5) The functions of the Commission Advisory Committee shall be as follows:-

(a) to advise the Commission on major questions of policy, relating to the electricity industry in the State; and

(b) to advise, the Commission on any matters which the Commission may put before it, including matters relating to the quality, continuity, and extent of service provided by licensees and compliance by licensees with the conditions and requirements of their licences.

33. Consumer protection; standards of performance - (1) The Commission, may, after consultation with (a) holders of supply licences, (b) other persons or bodies appearing to the Commission to be representative of persons and categories of persons likely to be affected and the Commission Advisory Committee, frame regulations prescribing:-

(a) the circumstances in which such licensees are to inform consumers of their rights;

(b) the standards of performance in relation to any duty arising under sub-section (a) above or otherwise in connection with the electricity supply to the consumers; and

(c) the circumstances in which licensees are to be exempted from any requirements of the regulations or this section and may make different provision or different licensees.

(2) Nothing in this section or other provisions of this Act shall in any way prejudice or affect the rights and privileges of the Consumers under other laws including but not limited to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

34. Electricity supply; overall performance standards - (1) The Commission may, after consultation with the licensees, the Commission Advisory Committee, and with persons or bodies appearing to it to be representative of persons likely affected, from time to time,-

(a) determine such standards of overall performance in connection with the provision of electricity supply services and in connection with the promotion of the efficient use of electricity by consumers as, in its opinion, is economic and ought to be achieved by such licensees; and

(b) arrange for the publications, in such form and in such manner as it considers appropriate, of the standards so determined.

(2) Different standards may be determined under this section for different licensees.

35. Information with respect to Levels of Performance - (1) The Commission shall from time to time collect information with respect to,-

(a) the fines or penalties levied on licensees under this Act;

(b) the levels of overall performance achieved by such licensees in connection with the transmission and provision of electricity supply services; and

(c) the levels of performance achieved by such licensees in connection with the promotion of the efficient use of electricity by consumers.

(2) On or before such date in each year as may be specified in a direction given by the Commission, each licensee shall furnish to the Commission the following information,-

(a) with respect to each standard prescribed the number of cases in which a penalty was levied and the aggregate amount of value of those penalties; and

(b) with respect to each standard determined such information with respect to the level of performance achieved by the licensee as may be so specified.

(3) The Commission shall, at least once in every year, arrange for the publication, in such form and in such manner as it considers appropriate, of such of the information collected by or furnished to it under this section as may appear to the Commission to be so required.

36. Restriction on disclosure of information - (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, no information with respect to any particular business which in the opinion of the Commission is confidential; and

(a) has been obtained by the Commission under or by virtue of any of the provisions of this Act, and

(b) relates to the affairs of any individual or to any particular business,

shall during the lifetime of that individual or for so long as that particular business continues to be carried on, be disclosed by the Commission without the consent of that individual or the person for the time being carrying on that business.

(2) The restriction contained in sub-section (1) above shall not apply to any disclosure of information which is made:-

(a) for the purpose of facilitating the carrying out by the State Government of any of its functions under a statute;

(b) for the purpose of facilitating the carrying out by the Central Government of any of its duties or functions under this Act or any Central legislation;

(c) for the purpose of facilitating the Accountant General, Andhra Pradesh to carry out his duties and functions under this Act;

- (d) for the purpose of enabling or assisting any competent person to carryout functions under the enactment relating to insolvency;
- (e) in connection with the investigation of any criminal offence or for the purposes of any criminal proceedings; or
- (f) for the purposes of any civil proceedings brought under or by virtue of this Act or any other State or Central legislation to which the information is directly relevant.

(3) The restrictions contained in sub-section (1) above do not apply to the disclosure of any information relating to tariff.

PART XI ARBITRATION AND APPEALS

37. Arbitration by the Commission - (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (Central Act 26 of 1996), any dispute arising between licensees shall be referred to the Commission. The Commission may proceed to act as arbitrator or nominate arbitrator or arbitrators to adjudicate and settle such dispute. The practice or procedure to be followed in connection with any such adjudication and settlement shall be such as may be prescribed by regulations.

(2) Where the award is made by the arbitrator appointed by the Commission it shall be filed before the Commission and the Commission shall be entitled to pass appropriate orders on the award including orders to,-

- (a) confirm and enforce the award;
- (b) set aside or modify the award; or
- (c) remit the award for reconsideration by the arbitrator.

(3) The award given by the Commission under sub-section (1) or the order passed by the Commission under sub-section (2) shall be a decision or order of the Commission and shall be appealable as provided in this Act.

(4) An award made or an order passed by the Commission under sub-section (2) shall be enforceable as if it were a decree of the Civil Court.

38. Appeals from decisions of Electrical Inspectors - Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 36 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 in the absence of any express provision to the contrary in the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 or the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, or any rule made thereunder, an appeal shall lie from the decision of an Electrical Inspector (other than an Inspector of the Central Government or the Central Electricity Authority) to the Commission or to an arbitrator to be appointed by the Commission in terms of section 37.

39. Appeals against the orders of the Commission - A person aggrieved by any decision or order of the Commission passed under this Act may file an appeal to the High Court of Andhra Pradesh within sixty days from the date of communication of the decision or order of the Commission to him, on questions or law arising out of such order:

Provided that the High Court may, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from the filing the appeal within the said period, allow it to be filed within a further period not exceeding thirty days.

PART - XII
OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

40. Penalty for contravention of section 14 - Whoever in contravention of the provisions of this Act or the regulations framed under this Act or the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 or the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 or the rules framed under the said Acts, engages in the business of transmission or supply or use of energy, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with penalty by way of fine which may extend to Rs.5,00,000 (five lakhs) or both and further penalty which may extend to Rs.20,000 (twenty thousands) for each day after the first during which the offence continues.

41. Penalties for contravention of other provisions - If any licensee or other person refuses or fails without reasonable excuse to comply with or give effect to, any direction, order or requirement made under any of the provisions of this Act he shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with penalty by way of fine which may extend to Rs.5,00,000 (five lakhs) or both and a further penalty which may extend to Rs.20,000 (twenty thousand) for each day after the first during which the offence continues.

42. Offences by companies - (1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company every person who, at the time the offence was committed, was in charge of, and was responsible to the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence under this Act, has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(3) For the purposes of this section,-

(a) "company" means a body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and

(b) "director" in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.

43. Power to compound offences - The Commission may for reasons to be recorded in writing either before or after the institution of proceedings compound any offence relating to contravention of any order made by it.

44. Cognizance of offences - (1) No Court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act except upon a complaint in writing made by an officer of the Commission, generally or specially authorised in this behalf by the Commission and no Court other than that of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of First Class or a Court superior thereto shall try any such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Central Act 2 of 1974), the Court may, if it sees reason so to do, dispense with the personal attendance of the officer of the Commission filing the complaint.

45. Penalties and proceedings not to prejudice other actions - The proceedings and actions under this Act against a person contravening the provisions of the Act or orders passed by the Commission shall be in addition to and without prejudice to actions that may be initiated under other Acts

including and in particular under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

PART - XIII
MISCELLANEOUS

46. Recovery of fees, fines and charges - The Commission shall be entitled to recover all sums due to it under this Act, whether by way of licence, fees or fines and charges, in accordance with the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Revenue Recovery Act, 1864 (A.P.Act II of 1864) as if any such sum were a public demand as defined in that Act and hand over the amount due to the person or authority concerned.

47. Application of the and charges - The Commission or Court imposing the fine and charges under this Act may direct that the whole or any part thereof shall be applied in or towards payment of the costs of the proceedings.

48. No part of the fines or penalties imposed to be passed on - The licensee, Generating Companies and others on whom the fines, charges, penalties are imposed under this Act shall not, directly or indirectly, pass the same to the consumers in the form of tariff or charges payable.

49. Protection of action taken in good faith - No suit or legal proceedings shall lie against the Commission or the Chairman or other members of the Commission or the staff or representatives of the Commission in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or any rule or regulations or order made thereunder.

50. Bar of Jurisdiction - No order or proceeding made under this Act or rules or regulations framed under the Act shall be appealable except as provided in the Act and no Civil Court including under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, (Central Act 26 of 1996) 1996 shall have jurisdiction in respect of any, matter which the Commission or the Appellate Authority under the Act is empowered by or under, this Act.

51. Power to remove difficulties - (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, or the rules, regulations, scheme or orders made thereunder, the State Government may by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provision, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as appears to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.

(2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before the State Legislative Assembly.

52. Proceedings before the Commission to be Judicial Proceedings –

All proceedings before the Commission shall be deemed to be judicial proceedings within the meaning of sections 193, 219 and 228 of the Indian Penal Code and the Commission shall be deemed to be a Civil Court for the purposes of section 195 and Chapter XXVI of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

53. Members and staff of Commission to be public servants –

The Chairman, other members and officers and other employees of the Commission appointed for carrying out the objects and purposes of this Act shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

54. Power to make regulations - (1) The Commission may make regulations by notification in the Official Gazette, for the proper performance of its functions under this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions and matters specifically provided for in this Act, such regulations may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely,-

- (a) the administration of the affairs of the Commission including the exercise of its administrative, quasi-judicial and judicial powers including arbitration and procedure for summoning and holding of the meetings of the Commission, the times and places at which such meetings shall be held the conduct of the business thereof;
- (b) the duties of the Secretary, officers and employees of the Commission, their salaries, allowances and conditions of service;
- (c) determination of the functions to be assigned to licensees and others involved in the generation, purchase, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity, the manner in which such functions shall be discharged and the procedure and code to be adopted in regard to power system and electric supply lines;
- (d) the procedure for licensing of transmission and supply, the conditions for the grant of licenses and particulars, details and documents to be made available by the persons applying for the licence, the standard and general conditions subject to which the licence shall be granted, the exemption from grant of licence, revocation and amendment and effect thereof, of the licence and all matters related to the above;
- (e) the duties, powers, rights and obligations of the licensee;
- (f) the particulars to be furnished, the collection of information, details, particulars, documents, accounts, books and other records from or of the persons involved in the generation, transmission distribution, supply and use of electricity the form and manner in which the same are to be furnished and enforcing and compelling the production of the same;
- (g) method and manner of determination of licensee's revenues, tariff fixation, the matters to be considered in such determination and fixation;
- (h) the constitution of the Commission Advisory Committee;
- (i) the determination of the standard of performance of the persons involved in the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity in the State;
- (j) the amount of fines and penalties to be imposed for violation of provisions of this Act including the method and manner of imposition of fines and penalties and collection of the same;
- (k) the regulation of the properties, assets and interest in the properties used for or in connection with the electricity industry in the State;
- (l) any other matter which is required to be or may be prescribed by regulations.

55. Power to make Rules - (1) The State Government may by notification make rules to carry out its functions under the provisions of the Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power and matters specifically provided for in this Act, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely,-

- (a) the procedure to be adopted by the selection committee for discharge of functions under the Act;
- (b) the preparation and implementation of the transfer scheme, the transfer of assets, liabilities and personnel to Generating Companies licensees and others in the State;

(c) the financing, funding, giving of guarantee to the persons involved in the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity in the state; and

(d) any other matter required to be or may be prescribed by rules.

(3) Every rule made under this section shall immediately after it is made be laid before the Legislative Assembly of the State if it is in session and if it is not in session in the session immediately following for a total period of fourteen days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions and if before the expiration of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following, the Legislative Assembly agrees in making any modification in the rule or in the annulment of the rule the rule shall from the date on which the modification or annulment is notified have effect only in such modified form or shall stand annulled as the case may be so however that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

PART - XIV EFFECT ON EXISTING CENTRAL LEGISLATION

56. Effect of the Act on the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 - (1) Except as provided in section 57 of this Act, the provisions of this Act, notwithstanding on that the same are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 or the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 shall prevail in the manner and to the extent provided in sub-section (3).

(2) Subject to sub-section (1) in respect of all matters in the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 with which Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board has been concerned or dealing with, upon the constitution of the Commission, the functions of the Board shall be discharged by the Commission and the APTRANSCO:

Provided that,-

(a) the State Government shall be entitled to issue all policy directives and undertake overall planning and coordination as specified in section 12 of this Act and to this extent the powers and functions of the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board as per the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 or rules thereunder shall vest in the state Government and the State Government shall co-ordinate and deal with the Central Government and the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) in respect of such matters which the Commission directs in terms of a general or special order or in the regulations or in the licence as the case may be the Generating Company or Companies, the licensees or other body corporate as may be designated by the Commission shall discharge the functions of the Board under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 to the extent directed by the Commission or specified in licences.

(3) Subject to sub-section (1) and (2) of this section upon the establishment of the Commission the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 shall in so far as the State is concerned, shall be read subject to the following modifications and reservations.

INDIAN ELECTRICITY ACT, 1910

(i) All references to State Electricity Board in the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 in so far as the State is concerned shall be read as references to the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission or APTRANSCO or other licensees or wherever it relates to general policy matters to the State Government;

(ii) In respect of matters provided in sections 3 to 11, 28, 36 (2), 49-A and 50 & 51 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, to the extent this Act has made specific provisions, the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 shall not apply in the State;

(iii) The provisions of all other sections of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 shall apply except that,-

(a) the term "licence" "licensee", "license holder" shall have the meaning as defined under this Act and the licences shall be construed as having been issued under this Act;

(b) the reference to the sections of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 in the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 shall be taken as reference to the corresponding provisions of this Act to the extent modified by the said Act;

(c) the reference to arbitration in these provisions except where it is by the Central Electricity Authority shall be taken as reference to the proceedings under section 37 of this Act and the arbitration procedure prescribed under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 shall not apply.

(iv) The Schedule to the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 shall be applicable only with reference to the provisions in this Act wherein the applications of the Schedule are specified and not otherwise;

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) ACT, 1948

(i) All references to State Electricity Board in the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 in so far as the State of Andhra Pradesh is concerned shall be read as reference to the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission or APTRANSCO or other licensees or where it relates to general policy matters the State Government;

(ii) In respect of matters provided in sections 5 to 18, 19, 20, 23 to 27, 37, 40 to 45, 46 to 54, 56 to 69, 72 and 75 to 83 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, to the extent this Act has made specific provisions, the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 shall not apply in the State;

(iii) The provisions of all other sections of the Electricity (Supply) Act; 1948 shall apply except that-

(a) the term "licence", "licensee", "license holder" shall have the meaning as defined under this Act and the licences shall be construed as having been issued under this Act;

(b) the reference to the sections of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 in the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 shall be taken as reference to the corresponding provisions of this Act to the extent modified by this Act;

(c) the reference to arbitration in these provisions except where it is by the Central Electricity Authority shall be taken as reference to the proceedings under section 37 of this Act and the arbitration procedure prescribed under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 shall not apply;

(viii) The provisions of sections 72, 73 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 shall be restricted to Generating, Companies and reference to the State Electricity Board in these sections shall stand deleted;

(ix) The Schedules to the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 shall be applicable only with reference to the provisions in this Act wherein the applications of the Schedules are specified and not otherwise.

57. Savings - (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the powers, rights and functions of Regional Electricity Authority, the Central Electricity Authority, the Central Government and authorities other than the State Electricity Board and the State Government under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 or the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 or rules framed thereunder shall remain unaffected and shall continue to be in force.

(2) Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited or other bodies or licensees in relation to the interstate transmission of the electricity or generating companies owned or controlled by Central Government or undertaking owned by the Central Government.

SCHEDULE
THE ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTRICITY REGULATORY
COMMISSION

PART - I
The Commission's Finance,
Accounts and Audit

I. Annual Financial Statement - (1) In December of each year the Commission shall submit to State Government a statement of its estimated expenditure for the ensuing financial year.

(2) The State Government shall as soon as possible after the receipt of the said statement cause it to be laid on the Table of the State Legislative Assembly.

(3) The Commission may at any time during the year in respect of which a statement under sub-paragraph (1) has been submitted, submit to the State Government a supplementary statement, and all the provisions of this section shall apply to such statement as they apply to the statement under the said sub-section.

II. Accounts and Audit - (1) The Commission shall cause proper accounts and other records in relation thereto to be kept, including a proper system of internal check and shall prepare an annual statement of accounts, in such form as may be prescribed by regulations made by the Commission in consultation with the Accountant-General, Andhra Pradesh.

(2) The accounts of the Commission shall be audited by the Accountant General, Andhra Pradesh or by such person as he may authorise on his behalf and any expenditure incurred by him in connection with such audit shall be payable by the State Government.

(3) The Accountant-General, Andhra Pradesh or any person authorised by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Commission shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers of the Commission.

(4) The accounts of the commission as certified by the Accountant General, Andhra Pradesh or any other person authorised by him on his behalf together with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded to the State Government within six months of the close of the year to which the accounts audit report relates and the Commission shall cause the said accounts of the Commission to be published and make available copies thereof on sale at a reasonable price. The audit report shall contain full details of any discrepancies

or irregularities in the accounts of the Commission. At the same time, the Commission shall publish an annual statement of its activities in relation to the functions carried out by it under this Act during the year to which the said accounts relate and make available copies thereof on sale at a reasonable price.

(5) The State Government shall cause the accounts of the Commission, together with the audit report thereof forwarded to it under sub-paragraph (4) to be laid annually before the State Legislative Assembly.

PART – II
GENERAL

III. Remuneration etc - (1) The Chairman and the Members of the Commission shall be paid from the funds of the Commission such remuneration and such travelling and other expenses and allowances, as the State Government may determine provided that the same shall at no time be inferior to pay and allowances paid to the Judges of Andhra Pradesh High Court.

(2) The State Government may cause to be paid as an expense of the Commission to or in respect of any person holding, the office of Chairman or a Member of the Commission such pension, allowance or gratuity of such contributions or payments towards provision of such a pension, allowance or gratuity.

IV. Official Seal - The Commission shall have an official seal for the authentication of documents required for the purposes of its functions.

V. Performance of Functions - Anything authorised or required by or under this Act or any other enactment to be done by the Commission may be done by any member of the staff of the Commission who is authorised generally or specially in that behalf by the Commission.

G. BHAVANI PRASAD,
Secretary to Government,
Legislative Affairs & Justice,
Law Department.