

CHAPTER XX : MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

20.1 Avoidable payment on electricity charges

Inaccurate assessment of contract demand by Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata resulted in avoidable expenditure of ₹ 53.96 lakh towards electricity charges paid to Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation Limited.

An Institute intending to get electricity connection is required to apply in a prescribed format along with required documents to the distribution licensee. The application includes *inter alia* the requirement of load along with the basis of projection of the load. Based on site visit by engineers of the distribution licensee, the contract demand is sanctioned and institutions are required to deposit the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit and an agreement is signed between the institute and distribution licensee. The institute can change the contract demand once in a year based on the actual consumption/projections. For reduction in contract demand, the consumer shall have to submit the application in the prescribed form along with deposit of processing fee and electrical contractors test report for reduction in sanctioned demand.

Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata (ISI) had a contract demand of 650 KW with the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (CESC) for its power supply. As per the agreement, demand charges are levied on actual maximum demand recorded in a month or 85 *per cent* of the contract demand whichever is higher along with the charges for actual consumption at rates applicable from time to time.

Audit analysis of electric load revealed that the maximum demand for power consumption was persistently lower by 73 *per cent* to 97 *per cent* than the contract demand during period from January 2013 to March 2016. On being pointed out by audit in April 2016, ISI reduced (June 2016) the contract demand to 350 KW. However, during the period June 2016 to March 2017, the maximum demand was still lesser by 59 *per cent* to 85 *per cent* than the contract demand. Non fixation of contract demand at 200 KW in January 2014 resulted in avoidable expenditure of ₹ 53.96 lakh (₹ 46.84 lakh billing demand and ₹ 7.12 lakh load factor surcharge on shortfall energy consumption).

The matter was reported to the Ministry in June 2017; its reply was awaited as of December 2017.