

# 8 *Monitoring*

## 8.1 District Electric Committee

Ministry of Power, GoI had instructed (April 2015) all States to notify District Electric Committees<sup>138</sup> (DECs). In Jharkhand, the Chief Engineer/Superintending Engineer of JBVNL was to be included as the Member Secretary. DPRs for DDUGJY were to be prepared in consultation with DECs. DECs were also required to review the quality of power supply, consumer satisfaction and promote energy efficiency and energy conservation. The Committees were to meet at least once in three months.

Audit observed that DPRs for DDUGJY were prepared in March 2015 prior to notification (May 2015) of DECs. Further, GoJ/SLSC recommended (May 2015) to forward DPRs of all the 24 districts amounting to ₹ 5,813.87 crore to REC without obtaining recommendations of DECs on DPRs of 19 districts. REC sanctioned DPRs of all 24 districts under DDUGJY for ₹ 3,722.12 crore in August 2015.

Audit further observed that GoJ constituted (May 2015) DECs to monitor implementation of DDUGJY. However, the Committees did not meet in four<sup>139</sup> out of the seven test-checked districts during 2015-20 whereas it met only once in Dhanbad (May 2015), Deoghar (June 2015) and Giridih (June 2015). Though the meetings were held to discuss DPRs of DDUGJY, no minutes were found on record.

Thus, DEC, a body with representation from all departments including public representatives, did not monitor the implementation of DDUGJY which led to delay in execution of schemes besides the following shortcomings:

- Problem of sites including RoW and leave way for PSSs and other infrastructure;

---

<sup>138</sup> The committee with the senior most Member of Parliament (MP) as Chairperson, other MPs as Co-chairperson, the District Collector (DC) as Convener and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA), District Panchayat President, senior most representatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSU) of Power, Coal and Non-Renewable Energy Ministry, if located in concerned district, as members.

<sup>139</sup> Palamu, Ranchi, Dumka and Pakur

- Non-furnishing of list of villages and APL beneficiaries targeted under AGJY;
- Stoppage of work of TMKPY meant for agricultural connections; and
- Slow release of electric connections to unconnected households taken up under SAUBHAGYA.

Thus, the purpose of formation of DEC's for consultation and preparation of DPRs for the implementation of DDUGJY schemes in the State was defeated.

Management/Department stated (May/October 2021) that DEC/Disha meetings were held in all the districts under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Member of Parliament (MP). In addition to DEC/Disha meetings, Hon'ble MP, MLAs & DC also reviewed the rural electrification works from time to time and issued necessary directions/guidelines which were implemented.

Reply is not acceptable as the Management/Department have furnished details of meetings of Disha instead of DEC meetings. DEC includes representation of experts from power and coal sector while Disha does not.

## **8.2 Dedicated team for rural electrification**

As per DDUGJY guidelines, JBVNL had to create a dedicated team for implementation of projects at the district and utility/State level including necessary manpower and requisite infrastructure like office, logistics etc., to ensure smooth implementation, monitoring and to redress grievance of the public and public representatives of the project areas. The details of the dedicated team had to be mentioned in the DPR. An officer of the rank of Chief Engineer/General Manager or above, had to be designated as Nodal Officer for the dedicated team at utility/ State level. The Nodal Officer was responsible for implementation of the Scheme in accordance with the prescribed guidelines, providing all necessary information including physical & financial progress related to the projects, arrange to get relevant orders/clearances from the State Government, enhance level of awareness and redress grievances of the public & public representatives in the project areas.

Electrical Executive Engineer (Projects) of the concerned Electric Supply Circle (ESCs) was to function as Engineer-in-Charge and he would be assisted by Assistant Electric Engineer (Projects/Supply) and Junior Electrical Engineer (Project/Supply).

It was observed during test-check in six districts that JBVNL did not deploy dedicated Electrical Executive Engineer (Project). In all the districts,

Electrical Executive Engineers (EEEs) holding the post of EEE (Technical, Commercial & Revenue) had been granted additional charge of the projects of the concerned district. It was further observed that ESC offices being nodal offices had to maintain basic records relating to execution of schemes. However, no such records were maintained at the ESC level and they completely relied upon the data provided by concerned TKCs. Thus, non-deployment of dedicated EEE (Project) led to delay in finalisation of BOQ, delay in providing land to TKC etc., which resulted in delays in acquiring statutory clearances and delays in construction of PSSs.

The Management/Department accepted (May/October 2021) that EEE (Technical, Commercial & Revenue) had been given additional charge of EEE (Project) of concerned districts due to shortage of EEEs in JBVNL and stated that there was no adverse effect on execution of project and PMC/PMA of concerned district maintains the data related to execution of work.

The reply is not acceptable as non-deployment of dedicated EEE (Project) led to delay in finalisation of BOQ, delay in providing land to TKC which resulted in delays in acquiring statutory clearances and delays in construction of PSSs. Further, all data required by Audit was sourced from TKCs by ESC offices.

*To sum up, District Electric Committees (DECs) were to meet once in three months to review the quality of power supply, consumer satisfaction and to promote energy efficiency and energy conservation. In the seven test-checked districts, DECs met only once during April 2015 to March 2020 for which no reasons were available on record. Thus, supervisory oversight by DECs, as laid down in the scheme guidelines, was absent. Further, GoJ/SLSC recommended forwarding DPRs of all the 24 districts to REC without obtaining recommendations of DECs on DPRs of 19 districts.*

