

Tata Power ready to connect many low-end customers

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MUMBAI: Following the state government's appeal to residents of the city to shift to Tata Power Company (TPC) to cut costs, the utility provider has said that it is prepared to accept the challenge of bringing in adequate and relatively cheaper power to cater to its growing consumer base.

"We are a century-old power company and we can arrange for enough affordable [power] supply for our low-end consumers," Ashok Sethi, chief of corporate operations management, Tata Power Company, told HT on Thursday. He said the company had tied up with several generators, especially within the state, to provide inexpensive power.

TPC has added 77,763 consumers from April 1 to December 31, 2013, with 75,125 consumers categorised as low-end consumers (those using less than 300 units a month). All these consumers are from Reliance Infrastructure, which has the largest consumer base, 23 lakh customers, in the western suburbs. TPC, on the other hand, has just over 4.5 lakh consumers, of which almost two-thirds are low-end consumers.

Currently, only those living in the suburbs have this option because the distributor in the island city, the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) undertaking, is locked in

a battle with TPC over maintaining its monopoly. Interestingly, TPC's generation arm supplies power to BEST, which caters to 10 lakh consumers as well as its distribution utility.

Chief minister Prithviraj Chavan had appealed to the city's consumers early this week to avail of facility migration because the government was not in a financial position to provide subsidies to its city-based consumers, similar to the ones provided to those using power from state-owned utility provider Mahavitaran.

"Our tariff is [the] lowest in the state even when compared to Mahavitaran's subsidised rates," said Sethi, but did not comment on the government's suggestion.

When asked about the company's difficulties, such as generation constraints at its Trombay thermal plant and the expected increase in demand during the peak summer months, Sethi assured that the company would be able to fulfil the necessary power requirements.

The company had upgraded one of its transmission lines and was in the process of upgrading the remaining two. This would increase the incoming flow by at least 400MW per day, taking the total carrying capacity to 1600MW, he said.

All city companies will use these lines to bring in power supply from outside, he said.

FOR CHEAPER POWER

77,763 Consumers added by Tata Power from April 1 to December 31, 2013

75,125 Low end consumers (consuming 0-300 units/month) added

50% More can be saved on power by consumers by availing TPC's supply.

Period	Reliance Infra	Tata Switch over	Tata Change over
Till 31.3.2014	₹3.93	₹2.13	₹2.11/unit
01.04.2014 to 31.3.2015	₹3.92	₹2.49	₹2.38
Till 31.3.2014	₹6.84	₹3.62	₹4.1
01.04.2014 to 31.3.2015	₹5.56	₹4.13	₹4.45

Change over - take power supply from Tata Power on the network of their current service provider

Switch over - become direct consumer of Tata Power on their own network.

(Tariff as per variable charges)



0-100 units

100-300 units