

## **EESL signs MoUs with DISCOMs in Bihar to install 18 lakh Smart Meters**

- *Memoranda of Understanding signed with North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (NBPDC) and South Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (SBPDCL) to deploy smart meters in 130 towns and adjacent rural areas covering approximately 18 lakh consumers in the state*
- *The deployment will be in a fast-track mode, with installation taking place within 1.5 years in a phased manner from the date of signing the agreement*
- *Smart meters will enable consumer convenience and ensure improved service delivery*

**Bihar, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018:** Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a PSU under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, today signed two MoUs (Memoranda of Understanding) with North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (NBPDC) and South Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (SBPDCL) to deploy smart meters in 130 towns and adjacent rural areas covering approximately 18 lakh customers in the state.

The MoUs were signed in the presence of Hon'ble Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R.K.Singh. Shri Saurabh Kumar Managing Director, EESL exchanged the MoU with Shri R. Lakshmanan, IAS, Managing Director from SBPDCL.

Emphasising on the benefits of smart meters for the consumers, **Shri RK Singh** said, *"The replacement of basic electricity meters with smart meters is a significant step towards enabling power sector reforms in Bihar where enhancing consumer convenience, satisfaction and rationalisation of electricity consumption are among our primary objectives. Smart meters will reduce AT&C losses, improve the financial health of power distribution companies (DISCOMs), incentivise energy conservation, enhance ease of bill payments and ensure billing accuracy by getting rid of manual errors in meter reading."*

*"Installation of smart meters will help in controlling power theft, ensure faster outage detection and swift restoration of service. In addition to this, consumers will be able to track their usage and pay their bills easily through mobile phone. It will enhance consumer satisfaction through better complaint management, system stability, reliability and transparency. Further, smart meters will help in monitoring round-the-clock power supply leading to greater efficiency and 24X7 power for all"* **Shri Singh added.**

Smart meters are part of the overall Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) solution that measures and records consumers' electricity use at different times of the day and sends this information to the energy supplier through GPRS technology. This gives consumers better access to information and allows them to make more informed decisions on the use of electricity in their homes, leading to reduced power wastage, and long-term carbon and financial savings.

The objective of these MoUs is to have a sustainable impact on the distribution sector in Bihar with implementation of smart metering (AMI) solution. This will improve the DISCOM operational

performance by increasing billing efficiency; reducing O&M cost and enhancing the quality of service by providing consumers with Demand Side Management (DSM) options.

The MoUs entail supply and installation of smart meters within 1.5 years in a phased manner from the date of signing the agreement. As per the MoUs, the implementation of smart metering (AMI) solution will enable significant billing efficiencies for both the DISCOMs. EESL will finance, build, own, operate, and transfer the smart metering (AMI) solution in the project area at the end of the agreement tenure, and will monetise its investment on monthly annuity basis.

**Shri Saurabh Kumar, Managing Director, EESL** said, *“We are honoured to be a partner in Bihar’s journey towards adoption of smart measures by state DISCOMs. Thrust on such efficient systems is critical for consumption and growth in a sustainable manner. Smart meters will not just enable consumers to monitor their consumption pattern and the corresponding cost but also act as a pathway for newfound efficiencies by being a vital technology in India’s power sector reform.”*

Through its Smart Meter National Programme (SMNP), EESL aims to replace 25 crore conventional meters in India with smart meters. As part of the project, EESL aims to improve billing efficiencies across the nation, enabling alignment with the loss trajectory agreed by the DISCOMs under Government of India’s Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) scheme.

The Smart Meters programme is also an unprecedented step towards delivering digital literacy and services under the Digital India programme of the Government of India. This programme will play an important role in empowering citizens by bringing in transparency and accountability in electricity consumption and billing.

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