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Power users get a tariff shock, rate up by 40 paise a unit

BENGALURU, DHNS

Consumers struggling with the economic hardship triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic will now have to contend with higher power bills too. The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) on Wednesday approved an average hike of 40 paise/unit (5.4%) across all categories under all electricity supply companies (Escoms).

The only relief is that the new tariff will not be applicable retrospectively from April as it is done generally but will apply for the energy consumed on or after November 1, 2020. However, KERC has kept the window open to recover losses titled "Regulatory Asset" from consumers in the coming years.

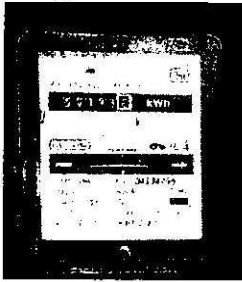
Citing increased demand and spiralling energy charges, Escoms had sought an average hike of Rs 1.26 per unit. However, KERC has approved only a 40 paise per unit average hike. Interestingly, the commission, while keeping the tariff uniform for other Escoms, has allowed a marginal differential increase in the

Bescom area making electricity dearer in Bengaluru and other districts under Bescom.

Going by the slab-wise revision, the commission has approved 20 paise to 25 paise per unit hike across all categories like domestic, commercial and industrial users. However, these hikes are not applicable to Bengaluru Metro and battery charging stations for electric vehicles. This apart, a steep hike of 50 paise per unit on temporary installations has

also been approved. Energy experts revealed that under the new tariff a household of four persons consuming about 100 units per month and getting a monthly bill of Rs 700 to Rs 800 now has to pay anywhere between Rs 900 and Rs 1,100 a month depending on the fixed charges levied as per the disclosed load at the time of availing the connection. A Bescom consumer paying Rs 3.75 per unit (up to 30 units), will now have to pay Rs 4 per unit. Similarly, those consuming up to 100 units a month, will have to pay Rs 5.45 a unit from the earlier Rs 5.20 per unit.

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Similarly, consumers in other parts of the state under various Escoms have to pay Rs 3.95 per unit from the earlier Rs 3.70 per unit (up to 30 units) while charges for subsequent consumption of units remain the same as Bescom charges.

For commercial and industries (LT/HT), the commission has allowed a hike of Rs 25 paise per unit in BBMP limits and districts. The commission has allowed the hike of 25 paise per unit on water supply charges which might lead to an increase in water tariff. However, the concession has been given to local bodies for installing LED and induction lamp for street lights.

Consumption/month	Bescom limits		Under other Escoms	
	Earlier	Revised	Earlier	Revised
Up to 30 units	Rs 3.75	Rs 4.00	Rs 3.70	Rs 3.95
31 to 100 units	Rs 5.20	Rs 5.45	Rs 5.20	Rs 5.45
101 to 200 units	Rs 6.75	Rs 7.00	Rs 6.75	Rs 7.00
More than 200 units	Rs 7.80	Rs 8.05	Rs 7.80	Rs 8.05

FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMERS