

**Consumer Education and Research Centre**  
Suraksha Sankool, Ahmedabad – Ganghinagar  
Highway, Thal Tej, Ahmedabad – 380 054

**INVITATION**  
**ENERGY CONSERVATION WEEK**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**

**Venue :** Gajjar Hall, Nr. Law Garden  
Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad

**Date :** 20.12.2004  
5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

- Welcome Address** : **Shri Ashok Tandon**  
*Trustee, CERC*
- Presentation by CERC** : **Comparative Testing of Electrical Appliances**
- Speakers** : **Prof. Manubhai Shah**  
*Chairman Emeritus, CERC*  
**Shri Murli Ranganathan**  
*Chief Executive Officer, AEC*  
**Shri K.H. Kaji**  
*President, Consumer Protection Council*  
**Shri Prakash Vankani**  
*Business Head, (West Zone)*  
DSCL Energy Service Co. Ltd., Ahmedabad
- Chief Guest** : **Shri Saurabhbhai Patel (Dalal)**  
*Hon'ble Minister for Energy, Govt. of Gujarat*
- Invitee Guest** : **Smt. Urmilaben Patel**  
*Additional Collector, Ahmedabad*
- Presidential Address** : **Shri G. Subbarao**  
*Chairman, Gujarat Electricity  
Regulatory Commission, Ahmedabad*
- Vote of Thanks** : **Shri Sunil Parekh**  
*Trustee, (CERC)*

*Organised by*  
**Consumer Education and Research Centre**  
Suraksha Sankool, Thaltej, Sarkhej-Gandhinagar Highway  
Ahmedabad – 380 054

**Celebration of Energy Conservation Week**

Consumer Education and Research Centre organized a public meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2004 between 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to celebrate Energy Conservation Week at Gajjar Hall, Nr. Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad – 380 006.



The function was inaugurated by Shri Saurabhhai Patel, Hon'ble Minister of Energy, Govt. of Gujarat by lighting lamp. The other dignitaries on dias also joined in lighting lamp.

Shri Ashok Tandon, Trustee – CERC welcomed Shri Saurabhhai Patel, Hon'ble Minister of Energy, Shri G. Subbarao, Chairman, Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission and other dignitaries sitting on dias. He also highlighted the activities being carried out by CERC, particularly in the field of energy conservation. He emphasized to the State Government with the facilities available with CERC for energy efficiency testing of various electrical gadgets e.g. Air-conditioners, Refrigerators, Desert Coolers, Water Coolers, Ceiling and Pedestal Fans. CERC also has facilities to check performance and safety aspects of pumps and motors which are of prime importance as far as energy conservation is concerned. The use of non-ISI and assembled pumps and motors consumes to 30 to 40% more power compared to ISI mark pumps/ motors of same capacity.

Ms. Sweta Mahajan, Scientific Assistant-Electrical Laboratory – CERC gave a presentation on comparative testing of various electrical lighting products and other appliances. The presentation was in tabular forms for easy understanding of the audience highlighting saving in energy and amount in Rs. Per month or year. The presentation covered following products.

- i) Ordinary ballast vs. Electronic ballast
- ii) Ordinary tubelights vs. Energy Saving T/L
- iii) Ordinary fan regulators vs. Electronic regulators
- iv) Food mixers
- v) Immersion heaters
- vi) Ceiling Fans
- vii) Incandescent Bulbs 60 Watts

She also narrated the experience of hair dryer catching fire during the testing. She emphasized the role of CERC in taking up the issue of standards and labeling where the consumption of each appliances has to be specified alongwith labeling of star where consumer can have choice for

purchasing energy efficient or less energy consuming appliances. More number of stars means more efficient the appliance is.

CERC also publishes the comparative testing report of all appliances in its bimonthly magazine "INSIGHT". Before publishing the reports CERC writes to manufacturers of such appliances proving the draft test report of their products and requesting to submit their comments.

Prof. Manubhai Shah, Chairman Emeritus of CERC requested Govt. of Gujarat to take some measures to stop/ control inrush of fake products from foreign market which affects health, safety, pocket or consumers and Indian products adversely. He also narrated the test performed by CERC where Chinese make CFL lamp did not last even hundred hours compared to Indian products which continued for more than 10,000 hrs. The consumer therefore should be careful while selecting such fake products which cost Rs. 30 to 40 compared to Rs. 250-300 for Indian products.

Prof. Shah also requested Hon'ble Chairman of GERC Shri Subbarao to introduce separate tariff for consumers who opt for energy efficient appliances and in line with facilities available in other developed countries. The distribution licensees should provide loan to such consumers who intend to purchase expensive energy efficient gadgets/ appliances. The installment of such loans can be recovered from monthly/ bimonthly electricity bill of consumers. He also emphasized that with technical innovations it should possible for GERC to provide incentives to such consumers who opt to keep their air-conditioners/ geysers and high electricity consuming gadgets off during peak hours. Though on the face of it this may look difficult but such incentives are prevailing in advanced countries. He also came with a proposal that CERS will provide whatever help is needed by Govt. of Gujarat and GERC in this matter.

Shri K. K. Shah, Vice President (Technical) of Ahmedabad Electricity Co. Ltd. made a presentation on the measures taken for energy conservation. He stated that AEC was the pioneer in the field of Demand Side Management since 1995. He also narrated various measures taken in transmission and distribution lines to reduce losses which has dropped from 18.61% to 16.12% in last two years.

Mr. Shah also gave details of measures adopted to reduce energy consumption in various high-rise buildings in Ahmedabad. The measures included installation of ISI mark pumps and motors and reduction in number of bends in the water pipes. He stated that that the amount of energy saved by such measures was between 25 to 30% which helped various housing societies and associations to save huge amount.

He also highlighted about the steps taken by AEC in the field of slum electrification where consumers are willing to go for legal connections. AEC has already provided legal connections to 80,000 slums in and around Ahmedabad and has a target of 2 lakhs slums to be electrified in next two years. It helped AEC to prevent theft of power, since they were earlier availing of illegal diversion of energy.

Shri K. H. Kazi, President, Consumer Protection Council, Ahmedabad and learned Sr. High Court Advocate stated that unless the measures for energy conservation are implemented vigorously and in true spirit, it will be difficult to achieve results. He requested Hon'ble Energy Minister to constitute special cells to monitor implementation of energy conservation programme.

The wastage of electricity in various social functions and festival season like Navaratri and Diwali should be curtailed with legislation. He stated that on one side there is shortage of electricity for remote villages and on the other side there is rampant wastage in cities and towns. He also suggested to Govt. for involving NGOs and other organization in the programme of energy conservation.

Shri Prakash Vankani, Business Head (West Zone) of DCM Shriram Consolidated Ltd. (DSCL) Energy Services Ltd. spoke on the financial aspects of energy conservation. He emphasized on energy auditing for all categories of consumers to control the wastage of energy. The role of BEE, ESCOS and Energy Auditors is of vital importance in the matter of energy conservation. Though it may take sometime to streamline the process of energy auditing but by and large small industries should be targeted initially. BEE has already began the process by appointing Energy Auditors and the time is not very far when all the category of consumers shall be covered under energy audit. He also suggested that Govt. of Gujarat should also opt for Energy Audit for this various offices in line with Central Govt. where energy auditing has been scheduled for Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament House, Rail Bhavan, All India Institute of Medical Science and other buildings.

Shri G. Subbarao, Chairman, Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission stated that GERC is aware about the wastage of electricity on both supply and demand side. GERC has already fixed norms to control the supply side losses, auxiliary consumption, station heat rate (amount of heat required to generate one unit) and other parameters. He also emphasized the wastage of electricity in agriculture sector where pumps and motor used for lifting water from ground are of substandard quality and assembled. These pumps consume 30 to 40% more energy than the standardized pumps and motors. He requested Hon'ble Minister to ban or restrict the manufacturing of such substandard and assembled pumps and motors. He stated that the cost of standard pumps and motors with ISI mark is almost thrice than the assembled pumps. The farmers go for cheap and high energy consuming pumps resulting in wastage of energy.

He also stated that GERC will try to implement whatever suggestions, proposals have been discussed by various speakers of this meeting and which are in the larger interest of consumers particularly providing incentives in tariff for use of energy efficient appliances and discouraging use of high energy consuming appliances during peak hours. He emphasized that GERC wants to do much on demand side management with the help of distribution licensees and organizations like CERC and shall be happy to associate with them in any project which deems fit.

Shri Saurabhbhai Patel, Hon'ble Minister of Energy, Govt. of Gujarat stated that State Govt. has taken man decisions and is much ahead compared to other states in India in this direction. He informed the audience that due to geographical location of Gujarat, the procurement of coal is from 100-1200 Kms long distance which enhances the fuel cost. The generation of hydro power is also minimum due to scanty rainfall in the State. The only available fuel is gas which makes power Govt. has decided to enhance the capacity of generation to meet the shortage of power. But energy conservation is the best form of energy generation where one unit saved is equivalent to 2.5 to 3 units generated. Energy conservation also saves costly fuel and protects the environment.

Gujarat has minimum agricultural consumption which is almost 40% of the demand. Due to drought and other natural calamities free power is given to farmers. The State Govt. has to pay Rs. 1800 crores per year as subsidy to Gujarat Electricity Board to provide free power to agricultural sector. Endorsing the statement of Shri Subbarao, he stated that the consumption is maximum due to use of assembled and non ISI pumps and motors which consumes 40% more power. Govt. has realized this and has come to conclusion that what farmers need is water and not electricity. The State Govt. has therefore planned and decided to provide Narmada Water through canals all over Gujarat which ultimately will benefit farmers and other citizens as well. Due to Narmada water the ground water level will increase and bore/tube wells will run for short duration providing sufficient quantity of water and saving precious energy.

Hon'ble Minister also declared that Govt. of Gujarat has selected 20,000 school children from all over Gujarat who are being trained as Bal Urja Rakshak Dal on energy conservation. The Govt. plans to conduct competitions among these Rakshaks and award prizes for their outstanding performance.

He also assured the audience that Govt. will do whatever is possible to save energy. The Govt. has also introduced voluntary energy audit for the use of load above 200 KVA and the outcome is encouraging. Govt. will not hesitate to make Energy Audit mandatory if various categories of consumers do not cooperate with Govt. He wished that more NGOs suggested to organize more such seminars to educate consumers on the benefits of energy conservation. He finally thanked CERC for inviting him for the function which shall bring lot of benefits to electricity consumers of Gujarat.

Shri Sunil Parekh Trustee, CERC thanked all the dignitaries specially Hon'ble Minister Shri Saurabhbhai Patel and GERC Chairman Shri G. Subbarao. He requested Hon'ble Minister to release more funds for publicizing and advertisement of such more meeting and seminars on energy conservation. He also appreciated the measures taken by Govt. of Gujarat on energy sector to bring back Gujarat Electricity Board from its large financial losses. He also appreciated CERC's efforts to educate consumers by providing authentic information based upon comparative test results on energy consumption of electrical appliances by makes of manufacturers and brand names of appliances.

The meeting ended with refreshment for all invitees an audience. The meeting though was scheduled upto 7. p.m continued upto 7.30 p.m.