



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission



SIKKIM STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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SIKKIM STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION



K.B.Kunwar, Chairperson

Foreword

Section 105 (1) and (2) of the Electricity Act, 2003 mandates that every SERC shall prepare an annual report highlighting the different activities undertaken by the Commission in the previous year including the details of important orders, notifications, directives and advisories issued by it.

As Chairperson, it is my pleasure to bring out this Annual Report, which highlights the various activities undertaken by the Commission and important orders, notifications, directives/advisories issued during the F.Y. 2024-25 and our efforts to promote reliable, efficient and sustainable electricity sector.

SSERC is also member of various august forums like the Forum of Regulators (FOR), Forum of Regulators for East and North Eastern States (FORENS), Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR), South Asian Forum of Infrastructure Regulators (SAFIR) etc. The Chairperson and the Officers of the Commission have regularly participated in various national level meetings and conferences of the said forums. SSERC has been vocal in placing its views and suggestions on the various topics discussed by these forums.

Chairperson SSERC has also been made members of different "Sub-Committees" and "Sub-Groups" constituted by the Forum of Regulators for taking up issues of national importance. Thus, as Chairperson of SSERC, I had the honour of giving my inputs in the meetings and discussions of the said committees and sub-groups.

To sum up, as in the past years, during the year 2024-25 SSERC has made its best efforts to ensure that no stones are left unturned to provide the regulatory frameworks necessary to protect the interest of electricity consumers, provide a congenial atmosphere for overall growth of power sector and especially renewable energy.

I take this opportunity to thank the State Government, Power Department, SREDA, the members of the State Advisory Committee for their support, cooperation and guidance. I hope that with the collective effort of all the stakeholders and decision makers, the power sector in Sikkim will grow by leaps and bounds in the coming days.

I also thank the Secretary, Officers and staff of the Commission for their cooperation and congratulate them for bringing out this Annual Report.

Gangtok
18th October 2025

Sd/-
(K.B.Kunwar)
Chairperson

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The Commission

1.1 Introduction

With the aim of bringing in reforms in the power sector and to boost the electricity generation, distribution and transmission in the country, the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003) was enacted by the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India on 2nd June 2003, thereby assigning more powers and functions to the Regulatory Commissions. The key objectives of the 2003 Act include:

- i. consolidating laws relating to generation, transmission, distribution, trading and the use of electricity;
- ii. promoting competition in the industry and
- iii. promoting efficient and environmentally benign policies, among others.

The Act also aimed at providing quality power supply to the consumers, protect rights of the consumers and ensure proper growth of the power sector and establishment of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) and Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC). The Act also paved the way for constitution of the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL), as a statutory and autonomous body to hear complaints, appeals or original petitions against the orders of the State Regulatory Commission, the Central Regulatory Commission, Joint Commission or the Adjudicating officer.

1.2 Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission

Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SSERC) was constituted by the Government of Sikkim via State Government Gazette Notification No.28/P/GEN/97/524 dated 15th November 2003 as per section 82 of the Electricity Act, 2003. SSERC is a single Member Commission headed by the Chairperson. Although SSERC was establishment in November 2003, it started functioning from April 2011 following the appointment of the first Chairperson.

Since its establishment in the year 2003, SSERC has had three Chairpersons as indicated below:

- Shri T.T.Dorji, IAS (retd.) - April 2011 to November 2015
- Shri N.R. Bhattarai - March 2016 to March 2021
- Shri K.B. Kunwar - August 2021 to till date

1.3 Organisational Set Up of SSERC

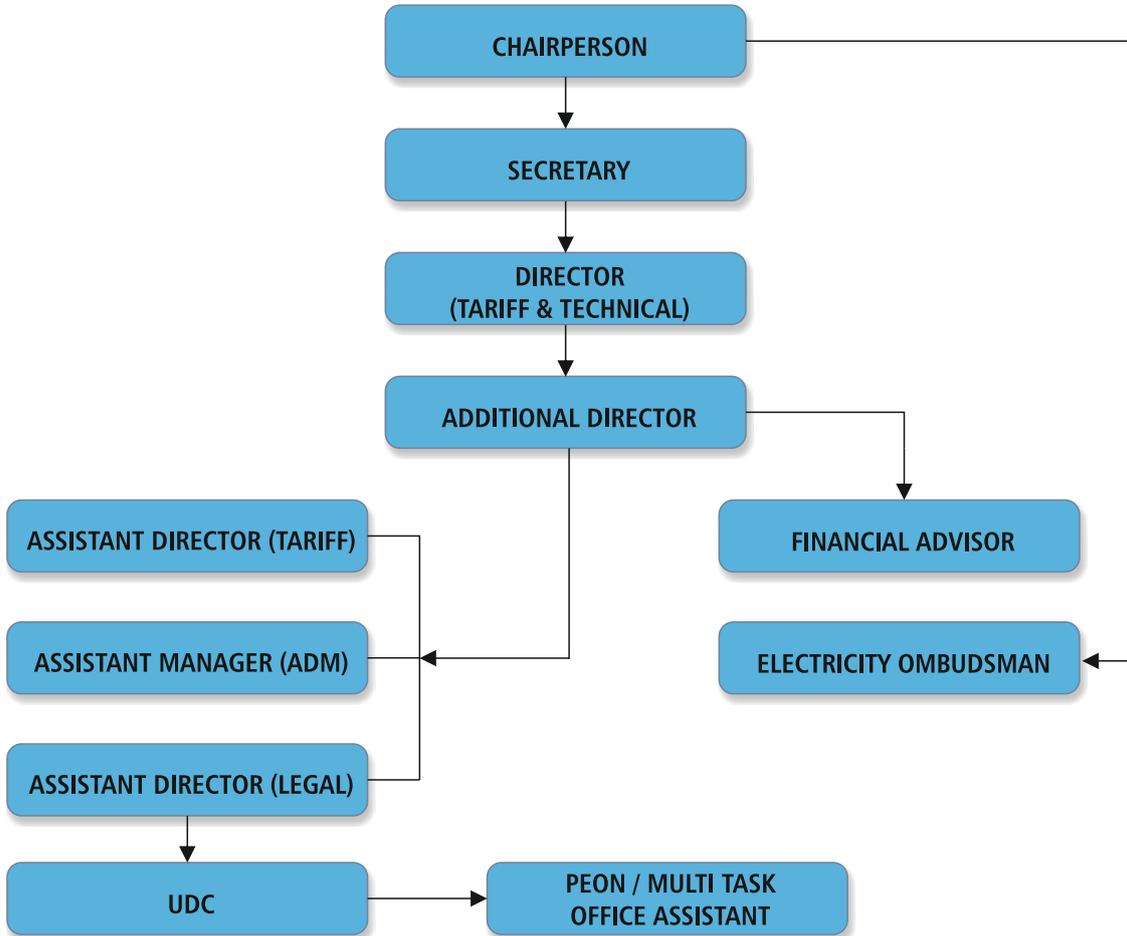
Section 91 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the State Commission shall appoint a Secretary to exercises such powers and perform such duties as specified. The same section further provides that State Commission shall specify the number, nature and category of other officers and employees with the approval of the State Government. The said section furthermore provides that the salaries and allowances payable to, and other terms and conditions of service of, the Secretary, officers and other employees shall be such as may be specified with the approval of the State Government.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 91 of the Act and with the approval of the State Government, the SSERC (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Employees) Regulations, 2015 was notified vide State Government Gazette Notification No. 212 dated 4th June 2015. These regulations regulate the appointment and other terms and conditions of the service of SSERC employees. Although, several posts are created as per the SSERC (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Employees) Regulations, 2015 and its subsequent amendments, SSERC has only recruited the bare minimum manpower required for its effective functioning.

The State Government also deputes/transfers employees of State Government to SSERC and presently, the Secretary and Financial Advisor are two such employees apart from OFOJ employees.

The present organizational set up of SSERC is as given under:

Organizational Structure of SSERC



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Human Resources

2.1 Sanctioned Staff Strength

As per the SSERC (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Employees) Regulations, 2015 and amendments thereof, the sanctioned staff strength of SSERC is as under:

Sl. No	Designation of Posts	Nos. of Post
1	Secretary	1
2	Director (Tariff & Technical)	1
3	Additional Director	1
4	Assistant Director –(Tariff)	1
5	Assistant Director- (Legal)	1
6	Office Manager	1
7	Finance Officer	1
8	Manager (MIS)	1
9	Assistant Manager (Admn.)	1
10	UDC	4
11	Office Assistants	5
12	Accounts Clerk	1
13	Driver	6
14	Peon	4
15	Night Guard	1
16	Safai Karmachari	1
Total		31

2.2 Officers and Staff of SSERC

Considering its functional requirements and the nature of works to be handled, SSERC has appointed Officers/staff on its own and resorted to deputation of officers from the State Government. As on 31st March, 2025, the following officers and staff were serving in SSERC:

Sl. No	Name of the employee	Designation	Remarks
1	Shri Bimal Rai, SCS	Secretary	On deputation
2	Shri Palchen D Chaktha	Director (Tariff & Technical)	----
3	Shri Jigme W. Bhutia	Additional Director	----
4	Shri B.B. Bhardewa	Financial Advisor	On deputation
5	Shri Pema R.Gyansapa	Assistant Director (Tariff)	----
6	Shri Sonam G. Bhutia	Assistant Director (Legal)	-----
7	Smt. Tshering W.Bhutia	Assistant Manager (Adm)	-----
8	Shri Hem Kumar Chettri	UDC	-----
9	Smt. Yangzom Bhutia	UDC	----
10	Smt. Yeshay D Bhutia	UDC	----
11	Smt. Zangmu Bhutia	UDC	----
12	Shri Arun Bhujel	Peon	----
13	Shri Ganesh Kr.Rai	Peon	----
14	Shri Kharga Bahadur Chettri	Peon	----
15	Shri Hem Chandra Chettri	Peon	----
16	Shri Govind Rai	Peon	----
17	Ms. Lucky D. Lepcha	MTOA	----
18	Shri Kul Bahadur Chettri	Peon	----
19	Shri Dubgay Bhutia	Driver	----
20	Shri Dawa P. Bhutia	Driver	----
21	Shri Mangal Singh	Driver	----
22	Shri Raju Subba	Driver	----
23	Shri Sonam T.Lepcha	Driver	----
24	Shri Norbu R.Lepcha	Driver	----
25	Shri Tshering D Lepcha	Safai Karmachari	----
26	Shri Sagar Bhujel	Night Guard	----
27	Shri Jigme S Bhutia (Adhoc)	MTOA	On deputation
28	Shri Sameer Pradhan (Adhoc)	MTOA	On deputation

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Powers and Functions of SSERC

SSERC is vested with the same powers as are vested in a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908) for the purpose of inquiry or proceedings under the Electricity Act, 2003. All proceedings before the Commission are deemed to be judicial proceedings within the meaning of section 193 and 228 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860) and the Commission is also a deemed Civil Court for the purposes of sections 345 and 346 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974).

Section 94 of the Electricity Act, 2003 enumerates the following matters in which the Commission shall have the same powers as are vested in a civil court:

- a. summon and enforce the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
- b. discovery and production of any document or other material objects producible as evidence;
- c. receiving evidence on affidavits;
- d. requisitioning of any public record;
- e. issuing summons for the examination of witnesses;
- f. reviewing its decisions, directions and orders;
- g. any other matter which may be prescribed.

Section 86 (1) of the Electricity Act, 2003, mandates the State Commission to discharge the following functions, namely: -

- (a) determine the tariff for generation, supply, transmission and wheeling of electricity, wholesale, bulk or retail, as the case may be, within the State:
Provided that where open access has been permitted to a category of consumers under section 42, the State Commission shall determine only the wheeling charges and surcharge thereon, if any, for the said category of consumers;
- (b) regulate electricity purchase and procurement process of distribution licensees including the price at which electricity shall be procured from the generating companies or licensees or from other sources through agreements for purchase of power for distribution and supply within the State;
- (c) facilitate intra-State transmission and wheeling of electricity;
- (d) issue licenses to persons seeking to act as transmission licensees, distribution licensees and electricity traders with respect to their operations within the State;
- (e) promote cogeneration and generation of electricity from renewable sources of energy by providing suitable measures for connectivity with the grid and sale of electricity to any person, and also specify, for purchase of electricity from such sources, a percentage of the total consumption of electricity in the area of a distribution licensee;
- (f) adjudicate upon the disputes between the licensees and generating companies and to refer any dispute for arbitration;
- (g) levy fee for the purposes of this Act;
- (h) specify State Grid Code consistent with the Grid Code specified under clause (h) of sub-section (1) of section 79;
- (i) specify or enforce standards with respect to quality, continuity and reliability of service by licensees;
- (j) fix the trading margin in the intra-State trading of electricity, if considered, necessary;

- (k) discharge such other functions as may be assigned to it under the Act.
- (2) The State Commission shall advise the State Government on all or any of the following matters, namely: --
 - (i) promotion of competition, efficiency and economy in activities of the electricity industry;
 - (ii) promotion of investment in electricity industry;
 - (iii) reorganization and restructuring of electricity industry in the State;
 - (iv) matters concerning generation, transmission, distribution and trading of electricity or any other matter referred to the State Commission by that Government.

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State Advisory Committee

4.1 Establishment of State Advisory Committee

Section 87 of the Electricity Act, 2003, states that:

- (1) The State Commission may, by notification, establish with effect from such date as it may specify in such notification, a Committee to be known as the State Advisory Committee.
- (2) The State Advisory Committee shall consist of not more than twenty-one members to represent the interests of commerce, industry, transport, agriculture, labour, consumers, non-governmental organisations and academic and research bodies in the electricity sector.
- (3) The Chairperson of the State Commission shall be the ex-officio Chairperson of the State Advisory Committee and the Members of the State Commission and the Secretary to State Government in-charge of the Ministry or Department dealing with Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution System shall be the ex-officio Members of the Committee.

4.2 Objects of State Advisory Committee

Section 88 of the Electricity Act, 2003, states that the State Advisory Committee shall advise the Commission on:

- (i) major questions of policy;
- (ii) matters relating to quality, continuity and extent of service provided by the licensees;
- (iii) compliance by licensees with the conditions and requirements of their licence;
- (iv) protection of consumer interest; and
- (v) electricity supply and overall standards of performance by utilities

4.3 Composition of State Advisory Committee

In line with the provisions of Section 87 of the Act, SSERC constituted the State Advisory Committee. The composition of the SAC as on 31st March 2025 is as shown below:

1. Shri K.B. Kunwar, Chairperson SSERC-----ex-officio Chairperson
2. Shri N.T.Lepcha -----Member
3. Shri D.P. Sharma, IAS (retd.) -----Member
4. Shri Dinesh Kharel-----Member
5. Smt. Shrada Sharma -----Member
6. Shri Pema S. Wangchuk-----Member
7. Secretary, Food & Civil Supplies Department-----ex-officio Member
8. Shri Bimal Rai, SCS-----Member Secretary

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Activities During F.Y. 2024-25

5.1 Notification of Regulations

SSERC notified several regulations during the F.Y. 2024-25. The notification of the Regulations or amendment of the existing regulations were done to incorporate the latest provisions of the various guidelines and notifications issued by the Government of India.

The list of regulations notified by SSERC are given hereunder:

Sl. No	Name of the Regulation	Gazette Notification No	Date of Notification
6	Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Distributed Solar PV Systems) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024	306	12/06/2024
7	Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Standards of Performance for Distribution and Transmission Licensees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024	362	22/07/2024
8	Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code (First Amendment) Regulations, 2024	387	02/08/2024
9	Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Distributed Solar PV Systems) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2024	425	04/09/2024

5.2 Formulation of Draft Regulations

Keeping in view the need for updating the existing regulations to incorporate the latest developments in the energy sector vis-à-vis electricity regulatory process/mechanism, SSERC has formulated the following draft regulations:

Sl. No	Name of the Regulation	Date of Issue of Draft Notification
1	SSERC (Renewable Purchase Obligation and Its Compliance) Regulations, 2024	20.05.2024
2	SSERC (Framework for Resource Adequacy Regulations, 2025	27.05.2024

5.3 Public Hearing

Power Department, Government of Sikkim (Deemed Distribution Licensee for the state of Sikkim) filed a petition before SSERC for approval of "Annual Revenue Requirement and Tariff for F.Y. 2025-26 on 30th November 2023.

As per the requirements of the Electricity Act, 2003 and SSERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2012, a public hearing on the petition was held as under:

Sl. No	Particulars	Date /Time of Public Hearing	Venue
1	Public Hearing of the Petition of Power Department, Govt. of Sikkim for approval of Annual Revenue Requirement and Tariff for F.Y 2025-26	16 th February 2024 10.30 AM to 2.30 PM	Court Room, SSERC, Deorali, Gangtok

5.4 Meeting of State Advisory Committee

The following meeting of the State Advisory Committee were held during the F.Y 2024-25:

Sl. No	Particulars of agenda	Date of Meeting	Members present
1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Truing up of ARR for F.Y 2023-24 2. Review of ARR for F.Y. 2024-25 3. ARR and Tariff proposals for F.Y 2025-26 	24 th February 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shri. K.B. Kunwar, Chairperson 2. Shri D.P. Sharma, IAS (Retd.), Member 3. Shri Dinesh Kharel, Member 4. Shri N.T.Lepcha, Member 5. Mrs Shrada Sharma, Memembr 6. Shri P.S.Wangchuk, Memembr 7. Shri Bimal Rai, Memembr Secretary 8. Shri P.D.Chaktha, Director (T&T)
2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 and Regulations notified by SSERC thereof. 2. Fixing of Service Connection Charges 3. Site Visit of State Advisory Committee 	30 th August 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shri. K.B.Kunwar, Chairperson 2. Shri N.T.Lepcha – Member 3. Shri D.P. Sharma, IAS (retd.)- Member 4. Shri Anil Raj Rai, IAS, Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies Department, Govt. of Sikkim, Ex-officio Member. 5. Shri P.M. Sharma , Member Secretary 6. Shri Palchen D. Chaktha- Director (T&T), SSERC 7. Shri Jigme W. Bhutia, Additional Director, SSERC

5.5 Tariff and Other Orders

The Commission issued the following orders during F.Y 2024-25:

Sl. No	Particulars of the Order	Date of Order
1	Order on Petition under Section 27 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 for adjudication of the penalty under Section 26 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.	09.07.2024
2	Service Connection and Associated Charges for the Power Department, Government of Sikkim.	16.09.2024
3	Approval of Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) and Tariff for the F.Y 2025-26 for Power Department, Govt. of Sikkim including Order on True Up for F.Y 2023-24 and Review for F.Y 2024-25	27.03.2025

5.6 Meetings of Forum of Regulators

90th Meeting of the Forum of Regulators

Shri K.B. Kunwar, Hon'ble Chairperson of the Commission participated in the 90th meeting of the FOR held in New Delhi on 5th April 2024. The main agenda items discussed in the meeting were:

- FOR Study Tour for Chairpersons of SERCs -Reference from KSERC and OERC
- Discussion on FOR's "Model Regulations for Resource Adequacy Framework" considering uniform retail supply tariff for the State with multiple distribution licensees and Open Access consumers having contract demand with distribution licensee- Reference from KERC.
- Computation of Additional surcharge— Need for common methodology-Reference from KERC
- Posting of CPES Officers in BERC on deputation to address the issue of lack of man power- Reference from BERC

91st Meeting of the Forum of Regulators

The 91st Meeting of the FOR was held at Pune, Maharashtra on 8th June 2024. The Hon'ble Chairperson, SSERC, participated in the meeting and took part in the discussions covering the following agenda items:

- Need for flexibility in system operation for RE integration - Minimum Turn down level for Thermal Stations (Presentation by GRID India)
- Curtailment of Power Trading Margin for long-term purchase - Reference from TERC
- Applicability of the tariff for the consumers charging electric vehicles at EV charging stations – Reference from CSERC
- Status update of FOR Working Groups (WG): - WG on Harmonization of Rules and Regulations - WG on RE related Policy and Regulatory matters
- Demand side management - Presentation by PRAYAS, Pune.

92nd Meeting of the Forum of Regulators

The 92nd meeting of the FOR was held on 29th July 2024 at Hyderabad, Telangana. The following were the important agenda items taken up for discussion by the FOR during the meeting:

- Difficulties in implementation of Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2022, issued on 29/12/2022 with regard to truing up of Fuel and Power Purchase Adjustment Surcharge (FPPAS) - Reference from MPERC
- Removal of difficulties in complying with Central Govt notification dated 23.05.2022 for installation of smart meters with prepayment features. - Reference from MPERC
- Issue related to LT connection up to 150 KW. - Reference from CSERC
- Deemed technical feasibility for Rooftop Solar up-to 10 kW - issues involved in places with high concentration of Rooftop Solar plants – Reference from KSERC.
- FOR WG report on Model Supply Code
- Status update of FOR Working Groups (WG):
 - a. WG to Explore measures for encouraging hydropower development and suggest ways and means to accelerate harnessing hydro potential (including pumped storage), in the country.
 - b. WG on Harmonization of Rules and Regulations
 - c. WG on RE related Policy & regulatory matters



92nd FOR Meeting, Hyderabad, Telangana

93rd Meeting of the Forum of Regulators

The Hon'ble Chairperson of SSERC attended the 93rd meeting of the FOR held at Indore, Madhya Pradesh on 13th September 2024 and participated in the discussions/deliberations on the agenda items.

The agenda items taken up for discussion were:

- Grant of GNA-RE status to APTRANSCO – Waiver of ISTS Charges – Reference from APERC
- GST issues of SERCs and CERC with Fitment Committee, GST council and Revenue Department - Reference from BEREC
- Waiver of Inter State Transmission charges on transmission of electricity generated from solar and wind sources of energy "- Reference from KSERC
- Issues regarding common methodology for calculating banking charges in Model Regulation for GEOA.
- Clarification on banking provisions of Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022
- Participation of Intra-State Generating Stations for providing Secondary Reserves Ancillary Services (SRAS)
- Discussion on RPO / Subsidy Accounting a) Best Practices on RPO Compliance and Subsidy Accounting
- Status update on formats for compiling data on RPO / Subsidy etc.
- Update on data requirement for RPO study under RE Policy Working Group.



93rd FOR Meeting, Indore, Madhya Pradesh

94th Meeting of the Forum of Regulators

The Hon'ble Chairperson of SSERC attended the 94th meeting of the FOR held at Guwahati, Assam on 10th January 2025 and participated in the discussions/deliberations on the agenda items given below:

- Framing of policies for knowledge -sharing and capacity-building programs for ERCs.
- Record of discussions of Minister meeting with FOR:
 - a) Study report on constraints and remedial measures for implementing RCO targets.
 - b) Proposal for a rebate mechanism to incentivize pre-payment meters.
- Draft MOU between IIT-Roorkee and Forum of Regulators.
- MoU/Engagement with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) for Capacity Building Programs.
- FOR Working Group on "Explore measures for encouraging hydropower development and suggest ways and means to accelerate harnessing hydro potential (including pumped storage), in the country".
- Report of FOR Working Group on "Viability of Discom."



94th FOR Meeting, Guwahati, Assam

Special Meeting of Forum of Regulators

The Hon'ble Chairperson attended the following special meetings of the FOR:

- Special FOR Meeting held on 18th October 2024 at New Delhi, wherein the following items were discussed:
 - a. GST ISSUES OF SERCS AND CERC
 - b. IMPACT OF DELAYED COMMISSIONING OF ISTS CONNECTED RE PROJECTS - REFERENCE FROM BERC
 - c. BEST PRACTICES ON RPO COMPLIANCE AND SUBSIDY ACCOUNTING - PRESENTATION BY CONSULTANT
- Special Meeting held on 28th February 2025 virtually. The following item was taken up for discussion:
 - a. REPORT OF FOR WORKING GROUP ON "ACCELERATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROPOWER FOR GRID STABILITY".

5.7 Meeting of the FOR Working Group

1st Meeting

- The Chairperson, SSERC attended the 1st meeting of the FOR Working Group on "Accelerating the development of hydro power, particularly pumped storage for grid stability" held on 9th May, 2024 in New Delhi and participated in the discussions as one of the members of the Working Group.

2nd Meeting

- The 2nd meeting of the Working Group was held in Solan, Himachal Pradesh during 28th and 29th June 2024. The Hon'ble Chairperson, SSERC, attended the meeting and following agenda items were discussed in the meeting:
 - a. DEVELOPMENT OF HYDRO POWER AND MEANS TO ACCELERATE HARNESSING HYDRO POTENTIAL (INCLUDING PUMPED STORAGE), IN INDIA
 - b. PURULIA PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT
 - c. STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROELECTRIC AND PSP PROJECTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

3rd Meeting

- The 3rd meeting of the Working Group was held in New Delhi on 8th August 2024 and the following points were taken up for discussion:
 - a. Views and experiences on policy issues, issues related to clearance of projects, tariff, future recommendations etc. / experience on Hydro and PSP
 - b. Identify best practices from USA and China and develop specific recommendations for adoption in India.

4th Meeting

- The 4th meeting of the Working Group was held in Purulia, West Bengal on 23rd September 2024 and the following points were taken up for discussion:
 - a. Views and experiences on Policy issues, issues related to clearance of projects, tariff, future recommendations for accelerating development of Hydro and PSP etc.
 - b. Compilation of responses received for the Questionnaire. - Presentation by Consultant -SAREP

5th Meeting

- The 5th meeting of the Working Group was hosted by SSERC with the support of NHPC Ltd on 8th November 2024 at Gangtok, Sikkim. The following items were taken up for discussion:
 - a. Scheme of Central Financial Assistance towards equity participation by the State Governments for the development of Hydroelectric projects in the North Eastern Region – Reference of Ministry of Power

- b. Detailed review of the suggestions provided by the developers.
- c. Discussion on the utilization of pumped storage plants as a grid asset
- d. Discussion on different business models of PSP.
- e. Promoting the growth of hydro power in India and Challenges

6th Meeting

- The 6th meeting of the FOR Working Group on “Accelerating the development of hydro power, particularly pumped storage for grid stability” was held on 20th December, 2024, at Ramnagar, Uttarakhand. The main agenda taken up for deliberation were:
 - a. Detailed procedure for implementation of “Budgetary support for enabling infrastructure for hydro projects”
 - b. Utilization of pumped storage plants as a grid asset.
 - c. Business Models for Pump storage Plants.

5.8 Meeting of Forum of Regulators for Eastern and North Eastern States (FORENS)

18th Meeting of FORENS

18th Meeting of the FORENS was held at Ranchi, Jharkhand during 5th to 6th May 2024. Chairperson, SSERC attended the meeting and took part in the discussions of the various agenda items. The following agenda items were deliberated during the meeting:

- Energy Storage System
- Presentation by India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF)
- Presentation by MARSH India Insurance Brokers Private Limited

19th Meeting of FORENS

19th Meeting of FORENS was held at Patna, Bihar during 29th November to 2nd December 2024 and the Chairperson, SSERC participated in the meeting. Some of the key topics and issues taken up for discussion in the meeting were as under:

- a. Regulatory impact
- b. Distribution reform in India including privatisation experience in Odisha and Delhi
- c. Utility transformation through Surya Shakti Scheme and role of regulator
- d. Financial viability of DISCOMS.

5.9 Annual Conference meeting of SAFIR & FOIR

The Hon'ble Chairperson of SSERC attended the following Annual Conferences of SAFIR & FOIR:

- South Asian Forum on Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) Annual Conference on “Cross Border Cooperation on Energy Infrastructure, Kandy, Sri Lanka during 29th February to 2nd March 2024.
- SAFIR Annual Conference 2024-25 held at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh during 7th to 8th March 2025.
- 25th Annual General Body Meeting of the Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) held on 14th June 2024 in New Delhi.

5.10 Capacity Building Programs/Trainings

The Hon'ble Chairperson and the Officers of SSERC attended capacity building/training programs. Details of the Training Programs attended by SSERC Officers are as under:

Sl. No	Particulars of Program/Training	Conducted by	Date	Name of Officer	Designation
1	3-Day Capacity Building Programs of FOIR in Goa	Forum of Indian Regulators	18 th to 20 th December 2024	Shri Jigme W.Bhutia	Additional Director
2	Global Regulator Perspective Program (GRPP) for Chairpersons of State Electricity Regulatory Commission to Australia/New Zealand	Forum of Regulators	28 th January to 5 th February 2025	Shri K.B. Kunwar	Chairperson
3	Capacity building webinar for SERCs - UPADHI Platform	Central Electricity Authority	25 th February 2025	Shri Palchen D Chaktha	Director T&T)

5.11 Directives and Advisories issued by the Commission

SSERC issued the following Directives/Advisories to the Power Department, Government of Sikkim during the F.Y. 2024-25:

1. Public Awareness on Smart Prepaid Meters/Issues of Prepaid meters

There is still major lack of awareness among the consumers regarding smart prepaid meters/prepaid meters including the nitty-gritties about their functions/operations etc. The Department is directed to ramp up its efforts towards giving wider public awareness on smart meters. It takes time for public to accept new technologies/mechanisms and same is the case with smart prepaid meters. Unless the Department creates wider awareness among the public, it will encounter lot of hurdles in ensuring 100% coverage of smart prepaid meters.

Frequent complaints/issues related to non-functional smart prepaid meters, wrong meter reading etc are being reported by consumers. The Department is directed to take immediate steps to rectify the shortcomings. Unless the issues/shortcomings are addressed, the whole objectives behind installing of smart prepaid meters will be defeated.

2. Delay in Implementation of Smart prepaid meter installation

It has been considerable time since the process of installing smart prepaid meters started in the State. However, the progress of meter installation is very poor. The Commission is aghast to note that not even 15% of total consumers has been covered by smart prepaid meters so far. Even the meters already installed have not been activated in most of the locations. If the Department intends to bring down the losses and improve its revenue, top priority must be given for speeding up the meter installation. The Department is directed to invariably complete the smart meter installation latest by the end of F.Y. 2025-26.

3. Monitoring Quality of Works and Machines/Equipment

The Department is undertaking several infrastructural development works/schemes funded by the Central /State Government. These works/schemes are intended to improve the overall quality of Transmission and Distribution networks

in the State. Therefore, it is necessary that highest standards are maintained both in the works and the machines/equipment being installed/supplied.

The Department is directed to regularly inspect the quality/standard of works being implemented and the machines/equipment being installed. For which, the Department is advised to conduct surprise site visits and checks to ensure that the quality is not compromised.

6

CGRFs and Standard of Performance

6.1 Reports on Functioning of the Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum

As per the directives issue by the Commission, the Power department has established Consumer Grievance Redressal Forums (CGRFs) in all the six districts in the State (at Circle and Division Levels)

The details of grievances received and disposed by the CGRFs and the Electricity Ombudsman during FY 2024-25 are given as under:

Grievances Received /Disposed by the Electricity Ombudsman		
No. of Grievances Received during F.Y 2024-25	No. of Grievances Disposed of during F.Y 2024-25	No. of Cases Pending
Nil	Nil	Nil

Grievances Received /Disposed by the Electricity Ombudsman		
No. of Grievances Received during F.Y 2024-25	No. of Grievances Disposed of during F.Y 2024-25	No. of Cases Pending
Nil	Nil	Nil

6.2 Guaranteed Standards of Performance & Compensation to Consumers

No complaints or cases regarding non-compliance or default of the Guaranteed Standards of Performance by the Power Department during the FY 2024 -25 were reported before the Commission. Therefore, no compensation was paid to any consumers nor any penalty was imposed on the Department.

6.3 Adjudication of Disputes

The following petition for adjudication of disputes is pending before the Commission as on 31st March 2025:

- i. Petition for Arbitration filed by M/s Shiga Energy Pvt Limited against Power Department, Government of Sikkim.

The petition has been admitted and registered as case No. P-01/Adj/2023 on 18.08.2023 by the Commission. The parties have filed joint petition before the Commission for adjournment of hearing of the matter. Accordingly, adjournment has been granted till 30th April 2025.

7

Budget and Accounts of SSERC

7.1 Fund and Budget of SSERC

Section 103 (1) of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides for constitution of a Fund to be called the State Electricity Regulatory Commission fund and that the Fund shall be credited with: -

- (a) any grants and loans made to the State Commission by the State Government under section 102
- (b) all fees received by the State Commission under this Act
- (c) all sums received by the State Commission from such other sources as may be decided upon by the State Government.

Further, Section 103 (2) states that the Fund shall be applied for meeting:

- (a) the salary, allowances and other remuneration of Chairperson, Members, Secretary, officers and other employees of the State Commission
- (b) the expenses of the State Commission in discharge of its function under Section 86 and
- (c) the expenses on objects and for purposes authorised by this Act.

Furthermore, Section 103 (3) states that the State Government may, in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, prescribe the manner of applying the Fund for meeting the expenses specified in clause (b) or clause (c) of sub-section (2).

Accordingly, the State Government has notified the Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Fund, Annual Accounts, Audit and Budget) Rules, 2016 thereby prescribing the manner of applying the Fund for meeting the expenses of the Commission. As per the provisions of the said Rules, the State Government provides grants-in-aid to SSERC to meet the expenses for routine functioning.

7.2 Accounts and Audit of the Commission

Section 104 of the Electricity Act, 2003 states that:

- (1) The State Commission shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare annual statement of accounts in such forms as may be prescribed by the State Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.
- (2) The Accounts of the State Commission shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at such intervals as may be specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the State Commission to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.
- (3) The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and any person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the State Commission under this Act shall have the same rights and privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India generally has in connection with the audit of Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the State Commission.
- (4) The accounts of the State Commission, as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India or any other person appointed by him in this behalf, together with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded annually to the State Government and that Government shall cause the same to be laid, as soon as may be after it is received,

before the State Legislature.

The accounts of SSERC have been audited by the Chartered Accountant and approved by the competent authority of SSERC. The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India will be taking up the auditing of the accounts of SSERC shortly, in the meantime the Statement of Accounts audited by the Chartered Accountant and other details are furnished hereunder:

7.3 Statement of Accounts

1. RECEIPTS & PAYMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2025

SIKKIM STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION GANGTOK SIKKIM
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

OPENING BALANCE B/F

Cash In Hand
Cash at Bank

20,000
1,11,53,690

GRANTS RECEIVED

Grant-In-Aid

2,70,00,000

OTHER RECEIPTS

As Per Schedule

4

8,14,643

CURRENT ASSETS

ADVANCES

5

1,10,000

INVESTMENTS

With HDFC Bank

45,33,841

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Duties & Taxes

43,200

Provisions

66,88,976

Forum of Regulators

8,26,923

5,11,91,273

PAYMENTS

EXPENSES INCURRED

Establishment Expenses
Administrative Expenses
Rain Forest Technology
Token Tax

1
2

2,36,52,892
56,38,678
82,010
30,800

EXPENITURE ON FIXED ASSETS

As Per Schedule

3

63,11,289

CURRENT ASSETS

Loans & Advance

5

8,27,500

INVESTMENTS

With HDFC Bank

50,00,000

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Duties & Taxes

43,200

Provisions

63,96,817

CLOSING BALANCE

Cash In Hand

20,000

Cash at Bank

6

31,88,087

5,11,91,273

IN TERMS OF OUR REPORT ON EVEN DATE
FOR Y. M & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

(CA. YASH MARDA)
PROP.
M.No : 300417



FINANCIAL ADVISOR

CHA. PHARBERSON
Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commis
Deorali, Gangtok, Sikkim

SECRETARY

2. **Income & Expenditure Account**

SIKKIM STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION GANGTOK SIKKIM
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

<u>INCOME</u>	YEAR ENDED
	<u>31.03.2025</u>
<u>GRANT RECEIVED</u>	
Grant - In - Aid	2,70,00,000
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>	
As Per Schedule	8,14,643
	2,78,14,643
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES	1 2,36,52,892
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	2 56,38,678
RAIN FOREST TECHNOLOGY	82,010
TOKEN TAX	30,800
DEPRECIATION	3 13,35,218
	3,07,39,598
 Excess of Expenditure over Income	(29,24,955)
<i>Carried to Balance Sheet</i>	2,78,14,643

IN TERMS OF OUR REPORT ON EVEN DATE
FOR Y. M & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS


(CA. YASH MARDA)
PROP.
M.No : 300417




FINANCIAL ADVISOR


CHAIRPERSON
CHAIRPERSON
Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commis
Deorail, Gangtok, Sikkim

SECRETARY
SECRETARY
Sikkim State Elect. Regulatory Comm.
Deorail, Gangtok, Sikkim

3. Balance Sheet as on 31.03.2025

SIKKIM STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION GANGTOK SIKKIM
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK

BALANCE SHEET

		<u>AS ON</u>
		<u>31.03.2025</u>
<u>SOURCES OF FUND</u>		
<u>CAPITAL FUND</u>		
		1,54,42,078
OPENING BALANCE		(29,24,955)
Add : Surplus/(Deficit) during the year		<u>1,25,17,123</u>
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
As Per Schedule	7	7,42,597
Forum of Regulators		<u>8,26,923</u>
		<u>15,69,520</u>
		<u><u>1,40,86,642</u></u>
<u>APPLICATION OF FUND</u>		
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>		
Opening Balance	3	46,46,325
Add : Additions during the year		63,11,289
Less : Depreciation during the year		13,35,218
Less : Sale of Fixed Assets		-
		<u>96,22,396</u>
INVESTMENTS		4,66,159
LOANS & ADVANCES	5	7,90,000
<u>CLOSING BALANCE</u>		
Cash In Hand		20,000
Cash at Bank	6	31,88,087
		<u>1,40,86,642</u>

IN TERMS OF OUR REPORT ON EVEN DATE
FOR Y. M & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS


(CA. YASH MARDA)
PROP.
M.No : 300417


FINANCIAL ADVISOR


CHAIRPERSON
CHAIRPERSON
Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Comm.
Deorali, Gangtok, Sikkim

SECRETARY

SECRETARY
Sikkim State Elect. Regulatory Comm.
Deorali, Gangtok, Sikkim



4. Schedule 1 & 2

SIKKIM STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION GANGTOK SIKKIM
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK

SCHEDULE 1

ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES

Salary & Wages	1,97,31,764
Medical Reimbursement	6,78,028
Leave Encashment	2,01,476
	<u>2,06,11,268</u>

SCHEDULE 2

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Advertisement & Publicity	14,869
Annual Membership Fees	17,21,760
Bank Charge	300
Printing & Stationery	1,76,058
Computer Expenses	1,02,070
Electricity Expenses	47,441
Fuel Expenses	5,28,549
Maintenance of Vehicle	1,93,570
Meeting Expenses	1,30,000
Newspaper Expenses	1,755
Office Expenses	38,943
Membership Fee of Forum of Indian Regulator	50,000
Postage	246
Repair & Maintenance	1,55,182
Telephone Expenses	43,611
Travel Expenses	4,17,389
Misc. Expenses	65,924
Professional Fees	1,02,660
	<u>37,90,327</u>



5. Schedule 3

**SIKKIM STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION GANGTOK SIKKIM
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK
FIXED ASSETS AS ON 31.03.2025**

SCHEDULE 3

SL.NO	Name of Asset	Rate	GROSS BLOCK			DEPRECIATION		NET BLOCK		
			As on 01.04.2024	Additional during the year	Disposed/sale during the year	As on 31.03.2025	Accumulated Depreciation upto 31.03.2024	Depreciation for the year (2024-25)	As on 31.03.2025	As on 31.03.2024
1	Furniture & Fixture	10.00%	23,47,346.00	2,05,084.00	-	25,52,430.00	14,47,319.00	1,10,511.10	9,94,599.90	9,00,027.00
2	Equipment	15.00%	2,94,000.00	-	-	2,94,000.00	2,49,721.80	6,641.73	37,636.47	44,278.20
	Air conditioner	15.00%	13,961.00	-	-	13,961.00	12,125.00	275.40	1,560.60	1,836.00
	Binder	15.00%	19,300.00	-	-	19,300.00	12,919.90	957.02	5,423.09	6,380.10
	Clock	15.00%	28,310.00	-	-	28,310.00	1,066.03	22,269.18	6,040.82	7,106.85
	Coffee Machine	15.00%	16,000.00	-	-	16,000.00	31,724.55	341.32	14,065.87	2,275.45
	Fax	15.00%	41,341.00	-	-	41,341.00	31,439.35	1,485.25	8,416.40	9,901.65
	Heating	15.00%	14,450.00	-	-	14,450.00	7,259.85	1,078.32	8,338.37	7,190.15
	LG Oven	15.00%	1,27,886.00	-	-	1,27,886.00	80,608.15	7,091.68	40,186.17	47,277.85
	PBX	15.00%	1,14,855.00	-	-	1,14,855.00	62,189.00	7,899.90	44,766.10	52,666.00
	LED TV	15.00%	1,39,768.00	-	-	1,39,768.00	1,20,601.35	2,875.00	16,291.65	19,166.65
	UPS	15.00%	30,140.00	-	-	30,140.00	16,108.20	2,104.77	11,927.03	14,031.80
	Water Filter	15.00%	1,10,700.00	-	-	1,10,700.00	87,513.70	3,477.95	19,708.36	23,186.30
	Xerox	15.00%	10,569.00	-	-	10,569.00	7,689.20	431.97	2,447.83	2,879.80
	Vacuum Cleaner	15.00%	1,11,750.00	-	-	1,11,750.00	80,341.65	4,711.25	26,697.10	31,408.35
3	Mobile	15.00%	47,475.00	-	-	47,475.00	35,508.70	1,794.95	10,171.36	11,966.30
4	Projector	15.00%	3,11,993.00	-	-	3,11,993.00	86,578.10	33,812.24	1,20,390.34	2,25,414.90
5	Video Conferencing	15.00%	80,29,160.00	-	-	80,29,160.00	51,64,722.05	4,29,665.69	24,34,772.26	28,64,437.95
6	Motor Vehicle	15.00%	11,69,321.00	-	-	11,69,321.00	10,02,994.70	24,948.95	1,41,377.36	1,66,326.30
7	Plant and Machinery	40.00%	2,14,378.00	-	-	2,14,378.00	2,14,355.20	9.12	13.68	22.80
8	Books	40.00%	14,46,926.00	-	-	14,46,926.00	13,10,526.20	54,559.92	81,839.88	1,36,399.80
9	Computer & Accessories	40.00%	1,84,799.00	-	-	1,84,799.00	1,61,933.60	9,146.16	13,719.24	22,865.40
	Computer	40.00%	1,33,749.00	-	-	1,33,749.00	1,01,649.00	12,840.00	19,260.00	32,100.00
	Printer	40.00%	86,692.00	-	-	86,692.00	82,647.40	1,617.84	2,426.76	4,044.60
	Laptop	40.00%	35,71,240.00	-	-	35,71,240.00	35,58,105.40	5,253.84	7,880.76	13,134.60
	CCTV	40.00%	61,06,205.00	-	-	61,06,205.00	6,10,620.50	6,10,620.50	54,95,584.50	-
10	Web Portal	10.00%	1,86,16,109.40	63,11,289.00	-	2,49,27,398.00	1,39,69,784.20	13,35,218.07	96,22,395.73	46,46,324.80
11	Civil Works	10.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Construction of Court Room	10.00%	-	61,06,205.00	-	61,06,205.00	6,10,620.50	6,10,620.50	54,95,584.50	-
	TOTAL		1,86,16,109.40	63,11,289.00	-	2,49,27,398.00	1,39,69,784.20	13,35,218.07	96,22,395.73	46,46,324.80



6. Schedule 4, 5, 6 & 7

SIKKIM STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION GANGTOK SIKKIM
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK

SCHEDULE : 4

OTHER INCOME/ RECEIPTS

Bank Interest	1,27,550
Interest on FDR	32,358
Fee Received Tarrif	5,86,735
Vehicle Charge Recovery	68,000
	8,14,643

SCHEDULE: 5

ADVANCES

	<u>Opening balance</u>	<u>Addition during the year</u>	<u>Refund / Adjusted during the year</u>	<u>Closing balance</u>
Imprest	-	-	-	-
Advance for Meeting	30,000	50,000	-	80,000
Advance fro Travelling	-	7,35,000	25,000	7,10,000
Advance for Festival	42,500	42,500	85,000	-
	72,500	8,27,500	1,10,000	7,90,000

SCHEDULE : 6

BANK BALANCE

With Axis Bank A/c No.11010034741928	8,83,042
With SBS A/c No. 2811100240201640	23,02,123
With HDFC Bank A/c No. 114551450000258	2,922
	31,88,087

SCHEDULE : 7

CURRENT LIABILITIES

	<u>Opening balance</u>	<u>Addition during the year</u>	<u>Remitted during the year</u>	<u>Closing balance</u>
Consultancy Expenses	2,75,000	-	-	2,75,000
Audit Fee Payable	76,700	-	-	76,700
CAG Audit Fee	97,962	-	-	97,962
Revenue Stamp	775	2,770	-	3,545
Central Bank of India	-	2,64,000	2,64,000	-
CIT	-	40,092	40,092.00	-
CPF	0.50	22,14,232	22,14,232	0.50
GIS	-	1,440	1,440	-
L/CESS	-	40,092	-	40,092
LIC	-	2,73,078	2,52,072	21,006
License Fee	-	1,800	1,800	-
LIC Housing	-	13,53,180	13,53,180	-
Royalty	-	1,513	-	1,513
SBS-HQ	-	16,35,501	16,35,501	-
Security Deposits	-	2,00,458	-	2,00,458
SIDCO	-	2,60,040	2,60,040	-
SISCO	-	1,98,972	1,98,972	-
TCS/TDS/GST	-	1,29,808	1,03,488	26,320
Vehicle Charge	-	72,000	72,000	-
	4,50,438	66,88,976	63,96,817	7,42,597



7. Bank Reconciliation Statement as on 31.03.2025 (Axis Bank)

BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT
WITH SBS A/C NO - 2811100240201640

AS ON
31-03-2025

BALANCE AS PER BANK STATEMENT 45,73,110

LESS : CHEQUE ISSUED BUT NOT YET DEBITED BY BANK

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CH. NO.</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	
28.08.2020	-	29,967	
29-03-2025	364423	12,87,399	
29-03-2025	364433	1,05,024	
31-03-2025	364429	1,12,765	
31-03-2025	364431	16,581	
31-03-2025	364432	1,23,266	
31-03-2025	364425	22,000	
31-03-2025	364440	4,000	
29-03-2025	364437	2,22,909	
31-03-2025	364427	3,600	
31-03-2025	364426	120	
31-03-2025	364424	1,94,620	
31-03-2025	364430	150	
31-03-2025	364428	21,670	
31-03-2025	364434	1,06,135	
31-03-2025	364435	20,781	
			22,70,987

ADD : WITHDRAWAL SHOWN BY BANK

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CH. NO.</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	
			-
			23,02,123

BALANCE AS PER CASH BOOK

