Date: 7.3.25

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Kamlakar Shenoy

To,
Hon. Chief Minister
CMO Maharashtra:
Mantralaya, Mumbai

Cc

Hon. MERC

BEST undertaking

Tata Power

Adani electric

Torrento

Subject: Assurance on Non-Installation of Prepaid Meters and Ensuring Only Electronic Meters are Installed – Statement Made on the Floor of the Assembly.

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<https://mahasamvad.in/158279/>

Respected Sir,

**Reference: Your assurance regarding installation of electronic meters without prepaid arrangements on the floor of Assembly.**

1. We acknowledge the assurance given by your esteemed office that only electronic meters shall be installed and there will be no implementation of prepaid meters. However, despite this assurance, it has been observed that electricity distribution companies, including BEST, MSEDCL, Tata Power, and Adani Electricity, are still compelling citizens to accept smart meters by using threats and police force, which raises concerns regarding compliance with the assurance provided by the Hon. CMO.
2. In light of the above, we request that the following be confirmed in writing by your office to prevent any deviation from the assurance given:

a) Existing meters shall not be replaced arbitrarily.
b) In cases of defects, only electronic meters, similar to those installed five years ago, shall be used. These meters should not contain functionalities that:
i) Enable conversion of billing into a prepaid system.
ii) Implement surging charges under the Time of Day (TOD) system.
iii) Allow automatic remote disconnection of supply without prior physical inspection.
c) The cost of smart meters and their maintenance shall not be recovered from consumers, nor should any form of subsidy be granted for the same.
d) A clear written assurance be provided that no surging charges under the Time of Day (TOD) system shall be implemented now or in the future.
e) A written confirmation that the order for smart meters has been cancelled and that an order for electronic meters without prepaid and TOD functionalities has been issued.
3. Despite clear directions, some senior bureaucrats have failed to adhere to the assurances given by the Hon. CMO. The forced installation of smart meters has been documented, as evidenced by video recordings in the Pydhonie area. This raises serious questions about accountability and adherence to government directives.
4. Furthermore, we draw attention to reports from other regions indicating the dangers of smart meters, including risks of fire hazards, excessive billing, and invasion of privacy. International reports, such as those from Los Angeles, highlight the dangers associated with these meters, further strengthening our opposition to their forced installation.
5. Our primary intention is to safeguard the rights of the common man and assist the CMO in ensuring policies that prioritize citizen welfare. If any of our submissions are incorrect, we request you to educate us accordingly. However, we reiterate our demand for a formal written assurance on the points outlined above to ensure transparency and accountability in the matter.
6. Additionally, we request a formal direction be issued to all electricity distribution companies, including BEST, MSEDCL, Tata Power, and Adani Electricity, to strictly adhere to the assurance provided and refrain from installing smart meters in residential, commercial, and industrial premises.
7. We also express our doubts regarding the integrity of your subordinate officers, as they have failed to act upon your assurances. It has come to our attention that they have given statements in writing claiming that no written intimation has been received regarding this matter, despite your clear statement on the floor of the assembly. This demonstrates a blatant disregard for your directives and raises concerns about their commitment to implementing government policies.
8. Despite such disobedience, the CMO has not made any comments or issued written orders to enforce compliance with the stated assurances. This inaction further emboldens the electricity distribution companies to continue disregarding your directives, causing distress to consumers. We urge you to take immediate corrective action to ensure that your assurances are implemented in letter and spirit.

4. Video Assurance: <https://youtu.be/wQS_LRuoBRw?si=qFWvcRt-PX3NggyB><https://mahasamvad.in/158279/> 2. Earlier assurance on non-installation of smart meters in residential, commercial, and industrial premises:

3. Statement on the floor of the Assembly: <https://www.tv9marathi.com/politics/common-people-are-not-forced-to-use-smart-meters-said-devendra-fadnavis-in-legislative-assembly-1228588.html>

 Jai Hind