

8. Section 23 of the Electricity Act 2003, which governs restrictions and controls on electricity distribution, is reproduced below:-

*"Section 23: Direction to the licensees:- If the Appropriate Commission is of the opinion that it is necessary or expedient so to do for maintaining the efficient supply, securing the equitable distribution of electricity and promoting competition, it may, by order, provide for regulating supply, distribution, consumption or use thereof."*

9. The Commission directed the TNEB on 10-11-2008 to publish their proposals in two Tamil and two English dailies, which have wide circulation in the State. The Commission supplemented the efforts of TNEB with a press note on 12-11-2008 advertising the date of public hearing. The proposals of TNEB were published in Dina Thanthi, Dina Malar, The New Indian Express and Deccan Chronicle on 15-11-2008. The proposal was considered by the State Advisory Committee on 18-11-2008 in terms of Section 88 of the Electricity Act, 2003. A public hearing was held on 21-11-2008 at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chepauk, Chennai in terms of Section 64 (3) of the Electricity Act, 2003. There was wide and enthusiastic participation. A total of 185 persons and organizations registered themselves for the public hearing, out of which 63 chose to present their views on the stage. The speakers included eminent public persons, leading industrial and trade organizations such as the Confederation of Indian Industries, Indian Wind Power Association, Tamil Nadu Spinning Mills Association, South India Mills Association, Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry, South India Small Spinners Association, Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association, Tamil Nadu Electricity Consumers Association, Tamil Nadu Plastic Manufacturers and Merchants Association, Indian Chamber of Commerce, CITU, NASSCOM (National Institute of Software and Services Companies), Indian Institute of Foundry Men, South India Hotels and Restaurants Association, Ice Manufacturers Federation, MEPZ Manufacturers Association, TNEB Accounts and Executive Staff Union, Ambattur Industrial Estate Manufacturers Association, Power Engineers Society of Tamil Nadu, etc.