



Date:

To

The Executive Engineer

Subject: Objection to Compulsory Installation of Smart Meters for new and existing connections– Legal Rights and Consumer Choice

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write to you on behalf of **Awaken India Movement (AIM)**, a nationwide citizens' platform committed to safeguarding individual rights and promoting lawful public awareness. We are deeply concerned about reports from residents in _____ regarding **coercive and unauthorized attempts to force smart meter installations**, even when consumers possess **functional existing meters** and **have not consented** to such changes.

We wish to formally assert the following:

1. Installation of Smart Meters is NOT Mandatory for New & Existing Connections

As per recent rulings and legal instruments:

- The **West Bengal government** has granted **residential users the right to opt out** of smart meter installations.
- The **Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020**, specifically Rule 47(5), grants **all consumers the right to choose** between **prepaid and post-paid meters**—and by extension, the metering system they prefer.

2. Relevant Legal Provisions

- **Electricity Act, 2003** – Section 55 and Section 166
- **Consumer Rights Rules, 2020** – Rule 47(5)
- **Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Regulations, 2019** – Currently under challenge in various courts



These clearly establish that consumers have a **legal right to reject a smart meter** if they prefer to continue with their existing post-paid, analog, or digital meters.

3. Documented Concerns with Smart Meters

Public feedback and court submissions have raised serious issues, including:

- **Higher and often confusing billing patterns**



- **Remote disconnection** of power without due process or consumer hearing
- **Privacy and health concerns** due to 24x7 data transmission and EMF exposure
- **Lack of transparency** regarding data use, control systems, and safety

We firmly believe that consumers must be **fully informed** and **never coerced** into accepting such technologies without their **informed, written consent**.

Documented Fire Hazards Linked to Smart Meters

Recent news reports raise alarming safety concerns:

- **Smart meters were reported to have caught fire or even exploded, resulting in widespread panic and strong consumer resistance.**
- Taken together, these reports demonstrate not just billing discrepancies but **real threats to life and property**—making it imperative that consumers be fully informed and safety assured before consent.

4. Our Demands and Requests

We respectfully demand the following from the _____ Division:

1. **Immediate cessation** of any forced smart meter installation drives targeting new or existing users.
2. **Public declaration** through circulars or notices that smart meter installation is **voluntary** for New & Existing connections.
3. **Assurance that consent** will be obtained in writing **prior to any meter replacement**.
4. Provision of **transparent procedures** to opt-out for societies and individuals.
5. Support to citizens who wish to file complaints with **Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC)** if their rights are violated.



We are committed to **legal and peaceful resistance**, and we will be helping _____ residents file petitions and escalate the matter to ERC and other relevant bodies, should forced installation attempts continue.

We request a written reply to this letter within 15 working days, clearly stating your official position regarding smart meter installations for new / existing connections.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

For Awaken India Movement

[Name]

Area Coordinator

Email:

Phone:

Website: www.awakenindiamovement.com

