附件2

Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Consumers Protection in China

Jing Xia

Excerpt

## At present, the *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Consumer Rights and Interests* does not make a unified legal definition of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers. However, in order to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of specific groups of people, such as women, children, the elderly, the disabled, ethnic minorities and people in poor areas, Chinese legislators have scattered these vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in different legal documents to give special protection, which involves the protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers and measures.

In terms of electricity standard and power facility construction. Starting from July 1, 2012, the multistep electricity price for household electricity consumption has been implemented throughout the country. The first grade standard can basically cover about 80% of the residents. In addition, “[household enjoying the minimum living guarantee](http://www.youdao.com/w/household%20enjoying%20the%20minimum%20living%20guarantee/#keyfrom=E2Ctranslation)” in urban and rural areas (families who have lost their labour force due to severe disability or illness of their family members and enjoy the minimum living guarantee) and “[households enjoying the five guarantees](http://www.youdao.com/w/households%20enjoying%20the%20five%20guarantees/#keyfrom=E2Ctranslation)” in rural areas (the State provides living care and material assistance in the areas of food, clothing, medical care,  housing and burial expenses to the elderly, the disabled , minors under 16 years of age who have no persons with statutory obligations to support aging parents, children, or other persons or persons with statutory obligations to support do not possess the capacity to support them..) provides free electricity 10-15 kWh per month, [[1]](#footnote-2)which is equivalent to 10% of the first grade standard in some cities. For example, Qinghai Province’s first grade standard is 150 kWh per month. While setting the first grade standard for residents to ensure that low-income groups maintain their basic living standards, China is also vigorously promoting the work of helping the poor by electricity. By the end of 2019, the State had carried out related construction, so that the depth of poverty in Xinjiang, Tibet and other areas of 5502 villages, 4.13 million households and 14.75 million people electricity conditions significantly improved.[[2]](#footnote-3)

In terms of water conservancy construction and rural drinking water safety. From 2012 to 2019, the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China invested 472.6 billion RMB in construction in poor areas. Since 2016, a total of 26.5 billion RMB has been invested in rural drinking water, consolidating and upgrading the level of water supply security for 228 million rural people, and solving the problem of drinking water safety for more than 17 million poor people. At the end of 2019, the national rural centralized water supply rate reached 87% and the tap water penetration rate reached 82%.[[3]](#footnote-4)

During the period of Covid-19 epidemic prevention and control, the State Grid Corporation of China implemented the “prohibit the disconnection of electricity” measures to ensure people’s livelihood. [[4]](#footnote-5)In terms of domestic water for residents, most cities have also implemented “prohibit the disconnection of water” measures.

1. 参见中华人民共和国国家发展与改革委员会网站：《阶梯电价全面试行》，https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/fggz/tzgg/ggkx/201207/t20120709\_1064623.html，2021年2月15日访问。 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. 参见人民网：《脱贫攻坚网络展——电力扶贫》，http://fpzg.cpad.gov.cn/429463/430986/430996/index.html，2021年2月15日访问。 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. 参见人民网：《脱贫攻坚网络展——水利扶贫》，http://fpzg.cpad.gov.cn/429463/430986/430995/index.html，2021年2月15日访问。 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. 参见人民网：《国家电网：疫情防控期间居民用电采取欠费不停电措施》，https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1656924197824612593&wfr=spider&for=pc，2021年2月16日访问。 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)