



# Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission

Civil Lines, G.E. Road, Raipur - 492 001 (C.G.)

Ph.0771-4048788, Fax: 4073553

[www.cserc.gov.in](http://www.cserc.gov.in), e-mail: [cserc.sec.cg@nic.in](mailto:cserc.sec.cg@nic.in)

## Suo-Motu Petition No. 18/2007 (M)

**Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board**

.... **Respondent**

### COPY OF ORDER SHEET DATED 31/01/2008

Shri G.S.Deshpandey, CE (O&M) and Shri D.S.Rao, CE (S&P) are present along with Shri M.S.Kumar, SE, Shri Manoj Khare, EE and Shri K.S.Bharti, EE for the respondent, CSEB.

2. Respondent Board has submitted the action plan for complete meterization by end March '09, which is six months behind the schedule which was decided earlier (Sept. '08) on the Board's request only. The action plan, which has been submitted on affidavit, is taken on record. The action plan and the supporting information submitted show that (i) the numbers of stopped/defective meters have increased which is a matter of concern. Of greater concern is the fact that these include three-phase industrial connections. (ii) As per the standard of performance of licensees laid down by the Commission, the stopped/defective meters should not be more than 2.5% of the total, at any point of time. These are at high level of more than 9% today, which is a violation of the standard of performance. Secondly, it is also noted that the Board wants to provide meters to all individual BPL consumers. We have said earlier and would like to reiterate that it may not be necessary to provide meters to individual BPL consumers since at present the Board does not have the capability of reading of all BPL consumer's meters, nor is it considered necessary in view of the tariff for such consumers. Installation of individual meters for such consumers will be a waste of money. The Board should identify clusters of such consumers where a single cluster meter will serve the purpose. All that is required is to monitor the quantum of electricity being used by such consumers. A simple example is majra/tolas in tribal areas where all consumers are most likely to belong to be BPL category. In such areas and in tribal villages, a single meter will serve the purpose, at least for the time being. The Board should, therefore, go into this issue again, as had been advised to them earlier also, identify such clusters and go in for cluster/joint meters.

3. Now that a joint plan of action has been prepared, the Commission agrees, very reluctantly, to extension of the time period for completion of meterization in the State by six more months beyond Sept. '08, upto March '09. The Board should note that under no circumstances will this time limit be extended. Non-compliance of this order will make the Board liable for action under section 142 of the Act automatically. The Commission shall consider imposition of penalty on each day basis with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2009 in case of default. The revised schedule may be notified in the gazette.

4. In spite of repeated direction the names of defaulting officers who are responsible for providing electricity connection without proper meters have not been furnished. The Board is clearly soft-peddling this issue which is a violation of the provisions of the Act. However, we drop this matter with a warning that any such lapses in future will be viewed seriously and appropriate action will be taken under the provisions of the Act against individual officers responsible.

5. With the above directions these proceedings under section 142 of the Act are dropped subject to the following:

- (i) The action plan prepared should be directly adhered to and the time schedule accelerated, if possible.
- (ii) There shall be joint monitoring of meter procurement and installation every month by CE (O&M) and CE (S&P) and the result of such review conveyed to the Commission every month.

These orders may be conveyed to the Board and the case closed.

Sd/-  
**Member**

Sd/-  
**Chairman**