



Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission
Civil Lines, G.E. Road, Raipur – 492001
Tel: 0771-4073555, Fax-4073553

Suo Motu Petition No. 02 of 2005

In the matter of meterisation of all un-metered connections as required under Section 55(1) of the Electricity Act, 2003.

Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board
Raipur

.... Respondent

Present: S.K. Misra, Chairman
Sarat Chandra, Member

ORDER
(Passed on 20/04/2007)

This order is passed further to this Commission's orders passed in the same case on 12/04/2005.

2. Section 55 of the Electricity Act 2003 (the Act, hereinafter) mandates that no licensee shall supply electricity after the expiry of two years from the appointed date, except through installation of a correct meter. This time period expired on 10th June 2005. Keeping in view, the inability of the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board to provide cent percent metering by 10th June 2005, as required under the Electricity Act and looking to the present level of metering in the State, the availability of different types of meters in the market, and the time likely to be taken in the procurement of meters, the Commission, in exercise of the powers vested in it under Section 55 (1) of the Act, granted extension of time for installation of meters, for all consumer categories in the whole of the State of Chhattisgarh, up to end of March 2007 as per the schedule of meterization approved by the Commission's order dated 12th April 2005. This new time schedule was notified in the Chhattisgarh Rajpatra on 20th May 2005.

3. The Chief Engineer (O&M), acting on behalf of Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB or the Board, for short) submitted a fresh petition before the Commission on 09/03/07, stating that in spite of all possible efforts made by the Board to comply with the directions for installation of meters at all the un-metered consumers within the time period fixed by the Commission, only 1.82 lakh out of 8.44 lakh un-metered connections could be converted into metered connections. The slow progress in providing meters is stated to be due to non-availability of required quantity of meters as per the specifications laid down by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in its notification issued on 17/03/06. The expected procurement of meters had to be changed by the CSEB in view of the changes in the specifications made by the CEA, which resulted in supply of reduced quantity of meters. The CSEB has now taken action for procurement of meters as per the specifications laid down by the CEA and with the commencement of supply, installation of meters at un-metered connections shall now be taken up on priority. The CSEB, however, apprehends that installation of about 6.62 lakh meters at the

un-metered connections can not be done in a short time. It has hence become inevitable to reschedule the earlier approved programme for installation of meters at un-metered connections. The CSEB has made out a revised programme for procurement and installation of meters at the remaining un-metered BPL and agriculture consumers according to which it would be possible to convert all un-metered connections into metered connections by the end of March 2008. Subsequently, the CSEB has requested to extend the time period by March 2009, as it may not be possible to complete the job in 2007-08. A copy of the plan for installation of meters has been submitted to the Commission for consideration and approval. The CSEB has made a request to the Commission that keeping in view the genuine difficulty in ensuring compliance with the schedule approved earlier of meter installation, the Commission may extend the time limit up to 31st March 2009 to complete the work of providing meters at all the remaining un-metered connections as per the second proviso of Section 55 (1) of the Act.

4. Having taken into consideration the present level of meterisation of electricity connections provided by the CSEB and having considered the procurement plan submitted by them, the Commission considers it necessary to extend the period under the proviso of Section 55(1) of the Act. The Commission accordingly agrees for extension of the period of full meterisation of all consumers, under the second proviso to Section 55 (1) of the Act, up to September 2008 as per the schedule given below:

Phase I (upto July 2007)

- (i) All stopped and defective meters must be replaced on top priority latest by **May 2007**. This plan is for clearing the backlog of the stopped and defective meters. Meters getting stopped/defective subsequent to this lot will be replaced within the time frame prescribed by the Commission in the CSERC (Standards of performance in distribution of electricity) Regulations, 2006 failing which it will attract payment of penalty as stipulated in these Regulations.
- (ii) All un-metered pump connections above 5 HP must be provided with meters latest by **May 2007**.

The CSEB should pool all the resources at its command to complete the above tasks on top priority. Any lapse in the above shall be viewed seriously by the Commission.

- (iii) All the 259 11 KV feeders identified for energy audit, where 5238 BPL consumers and 166 agriculture pump connections are still to be metered are to be fully metered by **June 2007**.
- (iv) Meterisation of identified 60 towns/cities, where 5112 BPL connections and 488 pump connections are still to be metered, are to be fully metered by **July 2007**.

Phase II (upto September, 2008)

- (i) All 5 HP agriculture pump connections are to be provided with meters by **March 2008**.

- (ii) All remaining un-metered BPL and agriculture connections are to be metered by **September 2008**.

These phases shall run concurrently but execution of meterisation shall be according to the priority assigned to each category. The plan for procuring meters shall be prepared in such a manner as to ensure the schedule of meterisation as above.

5. The Commission shall closely monitor the pace of meterisation as per the above schedule. In addition to the submission of quarterly progress reports, a return on compliance of meterisation of various categories as per the phases mentioned above shall be submitted to the Commission by 15th of succeeding month of the time schedule prescribed above for each category.

6. The Commission further directs the CSEB to submit a comprehensive plan for providing meters on distribution transformers and the plan of meterisation as per the above schedule be submitted within a fortnight.

7. The Commission has noted that 30790 agriculture pump connections and 48232 BPL connections were released without providing meters during the year 2005-06 and 06-07 which is in contravention of the direction of the Commission contained in the order of 12/04/05 in suo-motu Petition No. 02/05 and of 15/06/05 in tariff order for 2005-06. This is a clear violation of the directives issued by the Commission and the provision of the Act, which the Commission views very seriously. The Commission directs the CSEB to fix responsibility on individual officers/employees who released such connections contrary to the directives of the Commission and the provision of the Act. A report why meters could not be provided to new connections and the names of officers/employees responsible for the same and the action taken against the erring officials shall be submitted by the CSEB to the Commission within two months. Further, the CSEB shall ensure that in future no new connection including BPL connection is released without an appropriate meter.

8. It is also observed that inspite of the Commission's clear directives in suo motu petition No. 02/05 dated 12/04/2005, to replace stopped and defective meters on top priority, the CSEB has gone on replacing old working electro-mechanical meters with static electronic meters without complete replacement of stopped and defective meters. It is again directed that the existing stopped /defective meters be replaced in the first instance before conversion of electro-mechanical meters by static meters.

Notification may be issued accordingly as required under law.

Copy of this order be given to the CSEB and displayed on Commission's website.

sd/-
Member

sd/-
Chairman