

**Before the J&K State Electricity Regulatory Commission
Srinagar/Jammu**

Petition No. JKSERC/37/SM of 2013

In the matter of:

Implementation of the provisions of Section 49 of the Jammu & Kashmir Electricity Act, 2010 regarding consumer metering in the J&K State read with directions given by the commission from time to time and matters related thereto.

And

In the matter of:

1. Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, J&K Govt. Srinagar.
2. Development Commissioner (Power), PDD, Srinagar.
3. Chief Engineer, Electric Maintenance & RE Wing, Jammu.
4. Chief Engineer, Electric Maintenance & RE Wing, Srinagar.

(Respondents)

Coram:

Sh. Basharat Ahmad Dhar, Chairperson.

Sh. G.M. Khan, Member (F).

PRESENT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENTS.

J&K Power Development Department:

S/Sh.

1. Ajay Gupta, Chief Engineer, S&O Wing, Jammu.
2. K.A. Badoo, Chief Engineer, PMM/Commercial & Survey Wing, Kashmir.
3. B.A. Khan, Chief Engineer, M&RE, Kashmir.
4. Ravi Chanyal, Chief Engineer, P&D wing, Jammu.
5. Nasarullah Jan, Executive Engineer, TO to DC(P).
6. Azhar Vakil, AEE, DCP office.

ORDER

(Passed on this 25th Day of November, 2014)

The case was last heard on 5th of August of 2014 at Srinagar. The respondents had neither submitted any information nor any action taken report on the directives passed by the Commission in the matter. The Commission had observed that the respondents present appeared to be clueless and were vague in their statements. The respondents had sought one week's time for submitting the latest status on the progress achieved in the implementation of the metering plan and compliance of the directives passed on the last date of hearing and the Commission had reluctantly granted one week's time to the respondents for submission of the requisite details and the latest status of the implementation of the directives/metering plan. The information had to be submitted by the Utility by 12th of August, 2014 and the case was fixed for hearing on 9th September, 2014 at Srinagar. Due to the devastating floods, the case could not be heard on the said date.

In the meantime, the Development Commissioner (Power) vide his letter dated 20.08.2014 submitted a report indicating the progress achieved during 1st quarter of FY 2014-15 and the Division wise action plan for consumer metering for FY 2014-15 and 2015-16 as submitted to him by M&RE Wings, Jammu/Kashmir. DC(P) also vide his letter No. DC/PD/TO-I/217/886-92 dt. 01.09.2014 submitted quarterly progress report regarding consumer and system metering for the provinces of Jammu & Kashmir.

The case came up for hearing today at Jammu. The absence of DC(P) has been viewed seriously by this Commission. The Chief Engineer, M&RE Jammu was reported to be out of country but none appeared to represent her before the Commission. As per the action plan submitted by the Utility

to the Commission, the Utility had committed itself to following timelines for achieving 100% system and consumer metering in the State:-

S.No.	Connection Type	Approved by Commission vide notification No. JKSERC/18 of 2012 dt. 26.04.2012	Revised Metering plan submitted by the Utility on 18th April, 2014
A	All HT Connections	30 th June, 2012	31 st October, 2014
B	All EHT Connections	30 th June, 2012	31 st October, 2014
C	All Govt. Connections, Kashmir Region	31 st July, 2012	30 th June, 2014
D	All Govt. Connections, Jammu Region	31 st July, 2012	30 th June, 2014
E	LT Connections, R-APDRP Areas	31 st August, 2012	31 st December, 2015
F	LT Connections (Except Domestic), Non R-APDRP Areas	31 st January, 2013	31 st March, 2016
G	LT Connections (Domestic), Non R-APDRP Areas	30 th June, 2013	31 st March, 2016
H	DT Metering, R-APDRP Areas	31 st July, 2012	31 st December, 2014
I	All HT & EHT Feeders	30 th November, 2012	31 st December, 2014

The number of consumer meters proposed to be installed during FY 2014-15 was fixed at 4.81 lacs. From the progress reports submitted by the DC(P), it becomes more than obvious that not to speak of achieving stipulated targets as committed by the Utility, no meaningful efforts seem to have been made towards achieving the targets fixed for the first two quarters of current financial year. The Department has not taken any serious steps for furtherance of even the action plan for procurement of meters. It seems that the utility is insensitive and has opted to remain ignorant of the Power Sector Reforms happening in other States of the Country. The department is playing jugglery with the figures and has not

come up with any concrete action plans for building a strong edifice for Power reforms. Unfortunately due to lackadaisical attitude of the Power Development Department in achieving 100% system and consumer metering as required under the Act, the State is having highest AT&C losses in the country and to reduce these losses 100% metering in the State is a fundamental requirement.

The Utility lacks seriousness in implementing provision of Section 49 of the J&K Electricity Act, 2010 regarding consumer metering as it has not come up with the latest status viz progress achieved during 2nd quarter and the procurement status of the meters too has not been furnished.

Taking a serious view on the inertia exhibited by the department, the Commission directs the DC(P) to remain present on the next date of hearing of the case to explain as to why action under Section 102 of the J&K Electricity Act, 2010 be not initiated against the Utility. The Commission also directs the respondents to file the status report ending November, 2014 within a period of four weeks.

The case is next fixed for hearing on 7th January, 2015.

Sd/-
G.M.Khan
Member

Sd/-
Basharat Ahmad Dhar
Chairman

No.: JKSERC/Secy/42/1301-04
Dt.: 26.11.2014

Sd/-
(Abdul Hamid) KAS
Secretary,
J&K State Electricity Regulatory Commission

Copy to the:-

1. Principal Secretary, PDD, J&K Govt. Jammu.
2. Development Commissioner (Power), PDD, Jammu.
3. Chief Engineer, Electric Maintenance & RE Wing, Jammu.
4. Chief Engineer, Electric Maintenance & RE Wing, Kashmir.