

ORDER OF THE WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

IN CASE NO. OA-322/19-20

IN REGARD TO THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED (WBSEDCL) FOR INVESTMENT APPROVAL FOR ELECTRIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL PUMP SETS UNDER 'RAPID ELECTRIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL PUMP SETS (REAPS PHASE 3)' SCHEME IN TERMS OF REGULATION 2.8.2.3 OF THE WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF TARIFF) REGULATIONS, 2011, AS AMENDED.

PRESENT:

SRI SUTIRTHA BHATTACHARYA, CHAIRPERSON SRI DURGADAS GOSWAMI, MEMBER SRI PULAK KUMAR TEWARI, MEMBER

DATE: 02.08.2021



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Application for investment approval for Electrification of Agricultural Pump Sets by West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited under 'Rapid Electrification of Agricultural Pump Sets (REAPS Phase 3)' scheme in terms of regulation 2.8.2.3 of the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2011, as amended.



Facts in brief:

- The West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (in short 'WBSEDCL') has submitted an 1.0 application vide letter dated 10.01.2020 for approval of investment for electrification of agricultural pump sets under 'Rapid Electrification of Agricultural Pump Sets (REAPS Phase 3)' scheme as detailed under paragraph 2.0 below in terms of regulation 2.8.2.3 of the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2011, as amended (in short 'Tariff Regulations'). The Commission admitted the application submitted by WBSEDCL on 19.06.2021 in Case No. OA-322/19-20.
- In the application, WBSEDCL has submitted that in order for disposal of 6138 numbers of new electric 2.0 connection rapidly to the intending farmers who have applied for supply of power of their pump sets, WBSEDCL has formulated a scheme termed as 'Rapid Electrification of Agricultural Pump Sets (REAPS Phase 3) with an estimated project cost of Rs. 210 Crores. WBSEDCL also submitted that they have approached NABARD to obtain entire amount as loan in order to finance the scheme. However, sanction of the loan from NABARD is yet to be received by WBSEDCL. WBSEDCL prayed for approval of investment of total cost of Rs. 210 Crores (Rupees Two Hundred and Ten Crores) for STW connections under Rapid Electrification of Agricultural Pump Set Scheme Phase 3 in terms of regulation 2.8.2.3 of the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2011 as amended.
- Subsequently, WBSEDCL vide letter dated 07.07.2021 has submitted that they have received administrative 3.0 approval from Department of Power & Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal towards REAPS Phase 3 scheme under RIDF TR 25 vide Memo No. GO1920007160PO dated 17.02.2020 and stated that the entire funding i.r.o REAPS Phase 3 scheme is made through Government grant.

Observations and Order of the Commission:

- From the submission made by WBSEDCL vide letter dated 07.07.2021, the Commission observes that the 4.0 entire project cost of REAPS Phase 3 is funded by the State Government through grant.
- The Commission in Suo Moto Order dated 18.01.2021 in Case No. SM 26/ 20 21 had already decided 5.0 that the approval of the Commission shall not be required in terms of the provision of the Tariff Regulations where the project is fully funded by the Government through grants.
- The petition is thus disposed of. Let a copy of the order be served upon WBSEDCL. 6.0

sd/-(PULAK KUMAR TEWARI) **MEMBER**

sd/-(DURGADAS GOSWAMI) MEMBER

(SUTIRTHA BHATTACHARYA) CHAIRPERSON

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Dated: 02.08.2021

