



**ORDER  
OF THE  
WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY  
COMMISSION**

**IN CASE NO. OA – 533 / 25 – 26**

FIXATION OF NORMS IN RESPECT OF OPERATION AND  
MAINTENANCE COST FOR SOLAR PV GENERATING STATION OF  
THE WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION  
COMPANY LIMITED.

DATE: 04.08.2026



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**Facts in brief:**

- 1.0 The West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL) submitted a petition on 24.09.2025 seeking fixation of norms in respect of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) cost for Ground Mounted Solar PV Generating Stations and Rooftop Solar PV Projects of WBSEDCL for the year 2026 – 27 and onwards.

The Commission admitted the petition in Case No. OA – 533 / 25 – 26.

- 2.0 In the petition, WBSEDCL has inter-alia stated the following:

- 2.1 The Commission, vide Tariff Order dated 30.03.2023 for the Eighth Control Period, determined the normative Operation and Maintenance (O&M) expenses of Solar PV systems as Rs. 5.48 lakh/MW, Rs. 5.69 lakh/MW and Rs. 5.91 lakh/MW for the years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 respectively, considering an inflation factor of 3.79%.
- 2.2 WBSEDCL submitted that, upon expiry of the initial five-year Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) period, it had awarded comprehensive O&M services for a period of three years through a competitive bidding process covering four numbers of 10 MW Ground Mounted Solar PV Projects. WBSEDCL further submitted that, as per the Letter of Award (LOA), the average O&M expense works out to Rs. 7.90 lakh/MW excluding GST. According to WBSEDCL, the O&M expenses discovered through competitive bidding are higher than the normative O&M expenses approved by the Commission in the Tariff Order due to inclusion of comprehensive insurance coverage, security expenses arising out of locational vulnerabilities, and post-warranty Annual Maintenance Contracts (AMC) for critical equipment such as inverters, transformers and SCADA systems.
- 2.3 WBSEDCL further submitted that it had implemented Rooftop Solar (RTS) Projects under the ALOSHREE and IPDS schemes, which were commissioned with a five-year O&M period embedded in the respective EPC contracts. WBSEDCL stated that the EPC-based O&M phase has since concluded and, accordingly, the utility has initiated the tendering process for O&M of such RTS projects. WBSEDCL also



submitted that there are no specific norms for O&M expenses of Rooftop Solar Projects either in the relevant Regulations or in the Tariff Order of WBSEDCL. In this regard, WBSEDCL submitted that several State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have adopted normative O&M costs for rooftop solar projects based on project capacity and system requirements. WBSEDCL further submitted that, based on benchmark rates adopted by peer utilities/PSUs, the rooftop solar O&M costs generally range from Rs. 1,200 per kWp to Rs. 2,000 per kWp per annum.

- 3.0 In view of the above, WBSEDCL has submitted to allow the actual expenditure towards O&M costs of Ground Mounted Solar PV Projects and Rooftop Solar PV Projects, as discovered through competitive bidding, during truing up for 2025 – 26 and also while fixing the norms of O&M expenses for 2026 – 27 onwards.

**Observations of the Commission:**

- 4.0 The Commission vide Tariff Order dated 30.03.2023 for the Eighth Control Period has determined the normative O&M expenses for solar PV projects considering 1% of capital expenditure for the projects and inflation during the control period.
- 5.0 The Commission further notes that WBSEDCL has subsequently awarded comprehensive O&M contracts through competitive bidding after expiry of the initial EPC-linked O&M period and that the O&M expenses discovered through such bidding process are higher than the normative O&M expenses specified by the Commission. The Commission also takes note of the submission of WBSEDCL that the higher O&M expenses are attributable to additional components such as comprehensive insurance coverage, security expenses, and post-warranty Annual Maintenance Contracts (AMC) for critical equipment including inverters, transformers and SCADA systems.
- 6.0 In this regard, the Commission vide Order dated 04.08.2023 in Case No. OA-429/22-23, had already observed that locational factors may have an impact on O&M expenses due to additional expenditure towards security which will be examined during truing up based on documentary evidence. Further the paragraph 9.0 of the aforesaid Order dated 04.08.2023 had stated that normative O&M expenses for solar PV projects shall





be specified for each ensuing year of the control period in the Tariff Order and that any admissible additional security expenses and other applicable charges in terms of the Tariff Regulations shall also be applicable.

- 7.0 Therefore, the Commission is of the view that while the normative O&M expenses approved in the Tariff Order continue to remain applicable, any claim for additional expenditure over and above the normative level is required to be substantiated during true up with proper justification. Such documentary evidence shall also be provided for fixation of norms during tariff petition for 2026 – 27 and onwards for prudence check in accordance with the provisions of the Tariff Regulations.

**Order:**

- 8.0 In view of the above observations, the Commission directs WBSEDCL to submit all relevant documents in support of the claim for allowing actual expenditure during true up petition for 2025 – 26 and also during tariff petition for 2026 – 27 and onwards for fixation of norms.
- 9.0 The petition is thus disposed of.
- 10.0 A copy of the order shall be posted in the website of the Commission.
- 11.0 WBSEDCL shall download the copy of the order from the website of the Commission and act on it. Certified copy of the order, if applied for, be given to the parties on completion of formalities laid down in the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2013, as amended and on submission of necessary fees.

**Sd/-**  
**(DR. MALLELA VENKATESWARA RAO)**  
**CHAIRPERSON**

**Dated: 04.08.2026**

**Sd/-**  
**DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WBERC**