

ORDER OF THE WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION IN CASE NO. OA-367/21-22

IN REGARD TO THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED (WBSEDCL) FOR APPROVAL OF REVISED SCHEDULE I OF FORM S2 OF WBSEDCL PROCEDURES C (2021)

PRESENT:

SRI MALLELA VENKATESWARA RAO, CHAIRPERSON SRI PULAK KUMAR TEWARI, MEMBER

DATE: 10.07.2023



Application of WBSEDCL for approval of Revised Schedule I of Form S2 of WBSEDCL PROCEDURES C (2021)



FACTS IN BRIEF:

- 1.0 The West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (in short 'WBSEDCL') has submitted an application dated 03.02.2022 for approval of revised "Schedule 1" of Form S2 of WBSEDCL PROCEDURES C (2021) to incorporate component C of PM-KUSUM scheme. The application was received on 07.02.2022 and admitted by the Commission on 11.04.2022 in Case No. OA-367/22-23.
- 2.0 The application of WBSEDCL inter-alia stated the followings:
- 2.1 WBSEDCL had prepared a procedure termed as PROCEDURES C (2021) for receiving and disposal of the application for connectivity of Solar PV of the eligible consumers under net-metering and net-billing mode of connections, in terms of regulation 16.9 of the RE 1st Amendment Regulations and submitted before the Commission on 31.03.2021 for approval. The said procedure was modified as per the direction given by the Commission vide order dated 01.12.2021 and was resubmitted for approval on 08.12.2021. The Commission vide letter dated 31.12.2021 accepted the WBSEDCL PROCEDURES C (2021).
- 2.2 The Commission vide order dated 24.08.2021 in Case No. SM 27/21 22 has given directions for smooth implementation of Component C of PM KUSUM Scheme of Government of India regarding solarization of agriculture pumps.
- 2.3 Now, WBSEDCL in the instant petition has proposed to incorporate energy accounting and settlement of agriculture consumers under Component C of PM-KUSUM scheme as a part of the PROCEDURES C (2021) and accordingly prayed to approve a modified 'Schedule 1 of Form S2' of PROCEDURES C (2021) of WBSEDCL.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMISSION:

- 3.0 The PM Kusum Scheme is a Government scheme which is to facilitate solarization of agricultural pumps. Under Component C of the said scheme, individual farmers having grid connected agricultural pumps will be able to use the solar power to meet its irrigation and excess power will be purchased by the distribution licensee.
- 4.0 The Commission in its Suo Motu Order dated 24.08.2021 in Case No. SM 27/ 21 22 has observed that, certain conditions under Component C of PM Kusum scheme are not in synchronization with the provisions of the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission



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(Cogeneration and Generation of Electricity from Renewable Sources of Energy) Regulations, 2013, as amended from time to time. Accordingly, the Commission decided to deal the implementation of Component C of PM Kusum Scheme separately through the Suo Motu Order dated 24.08.2021. Relevant extract from the order is reproduced below:

- "6.0 In view of the above the Commission, finds it suitable to consider the issue of implementation of Component-C of PM-KUSUM scheme separately through this suo-motu order, while the issue of approval of detailed procedure submitted by WBSEDCL in terms of WBERC Re 1st Amendment is being dealt separately."
- 5.0 The Commission in the said suo-motu order dated 24.08.2021 has also specified the principles to be followed for providing connectivity to the agriculture consumers having solar PV under component C of PM-KUSUM scheme and the rate at which WBSEDCL have to purchase excess solar power from such consumers.
- 6.0 Further, the Commission, in its order dated 01.12.2021 for approval of the PROCEDURES C (2021) (i.e., detailed procedure), has categorically referred to the issue in paragraph 7.0 (b) of the order dated 01.12.2021 and stated that, in case of Government schemes and schemes prepared in line with Government schemes, provisions allowed in schemes may be adopted by the petitioner.
- 7.0 Now, the observations and directives given in suo-motu order dated 24.08.2021 in Case No. SM-27/21-22 are quite adequate to implement the PM Kusum Scheme by WBSEDCL. WBSEDCL has to provide connections to solar PVs under Component-C of PM KUSUM following the guidelines of Government of India scheme read with the specific directions given in SM-27/21-22.
- 8.0 Thus, proposed modification of PROCEDURES-C (2021) of WBSEDCL is not in line with the order dated 24.08.2021 in case No. SM-27/21-22 and order dated 01.12.2021 in Case No. OA-367/20-21.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

- 9.0 In view of the above, the Commission directs WBSEDCL to follow the directions given in Suo Motu Order dated 24.08.2021 for implementation of PM Kusum Scheme.
- 10.0 The application is thus disposed of.



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- 11.0 A copy of the order shall be posted in the website of the Commission.
- 12.0 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 West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2013, as amended and on submission of necessary fees.

Sd/-(PULAK KUMAR TEWARI) MEMBER

Sd/-(MALLELA VENKATESWARA RAO) CHAIRPERSON

Dated: 10.07.2023

Sd/-SECRETARY