



**ORDER
OF THE
WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
IN CASE NO. OA-468/23-24**

IN REGARD TO THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED (WBSEDCL) FOR APPROVAL OF ROLL OUT PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PRE-PAID SMART METER AT THE CONSUMER PREMISES INCLUDING GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF WBSEDCL AS PER REQUIREMENT OF REVAMPED DISTRIBUTION SECTOR SCHEME (RDSS) OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OR SIMILAR SMART METERING SCHEME

PRESENT:

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

DATE: 20.02.2024



In regard to the petition for approval of roll out plan for implementation of pre-paid smart meter at the consumer premises including Government establishments under the jurisdiction of WBSEDCL as per requirement of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) of the Government of India or similar smart metering scheme.



CASE IN BRIEF

- 1.0 The West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL) has submitted a petition for approval of roll out plan for implementation of pre-paid smart meter at the consumer premises including Government establishments under the jurisdiction of WBSEDCL as per the requirement of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) of the Government of India or similar smart metering scheme.
- 2.0 The petition has been admitted by the Commission on 25.01.2024. The Petition has been marked as OA-468/23-24.
- 3.0 In the petition, WBSEDCL has submitted the followings:
- (i) WBSEDCL is in the process of installation of pre-paid smart meter at the consumer premises of WBSEDCL under RDSS.
 - (ii) Ministry of Power (MoP), Government of India (GoI) has issued an advisory on 13.09.2022 on issues relating to rolling out of smart meter under RDSS.
 - (iii) Department of Power, Govt. of West Bengal vide notification dated 24.08.2023 has finalized the modus operandi for switching over from post paid meter to pre-paid meter in respect of Govt. Consumers.
 - (iv) Based on the above, WBSEDCL has prepared a rollout plan and additional rebate scheme for onetime payment of total amount for all type of consumers (including Govt. consumers).
 - (v) The Board of Directors of WBSEDCL in its 116th meeting has approved the rollout plan.
 - (vi) In the rollout plan, WBSEDCL has proposed a flat rebate/ discount of 4% uniformly for all the components of final bill (excluding Electricity Duty). This is intended to encourage consumer to clear their dues in one go by 10 days from the date of switch over.
 - (vii) As per the advisory of Government of West Bengal, if the arrears as on the date of transition are not cleared by the consumers within 10 days of switch over from postpaid to pre-paid, total unpaid amount will be divided into 300 parts and one part will be added with each day of prepaid bill.



In regard to the petition for approval of roll out plan for implementation of pre-paid smart meter at the consumer premises including Government establishments under the jurisdiction of WBSEDCL as per requirement of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) of the Government of India or similar smart metering scheme.



- (viii) WBSEDCL has submitted that there may be a possibility of blockage of considerable amount of fund for at the most 300 days. This will result in opportunity loss for WBSEDCL. To compensate the resultant loss of revenue, WBSEDCL has to resort to short term borrowing of fund and consequently, bear the burden of interest at the rate of 3.85% - 4%.
- (ix) Therefore, WBSEDCL in its petition has requested for approval of rollout plan including additional rebate scheme.

OBSERVATION OF THE COMMISSION

- 1.0 Implementation of the prepaid meters is a requirement under RDSS scheme.
- 2.0 Ministry of Power, Gol has issued advisory on 13.09.2022 for smooth implementation of smart meters.
- 3.0 Department of Power, Gov of WB, has also finalized the modus operandi for switching over from postpaid meter to prepaid smart meter in respect of the Government Consumers.
- 4.0 In conformity with the above, WBSEDCL has prepared a roll out plan with the approval of the Board of Directors of WBSEDCL.
- 5.0 One-time rebate of 4% for clearing the dues at one go within 10 days of transition from postpaid to prepaid meters will motivate the consumers to settle the arrears and avail the economic benefit offered therein.
- 6.0 Settlement of unpaid dues uniformly over the period of 300 days may result blockage of fund for WBSEDCL.

ORDER

- 1.0 Considering the above, the Commission hereby accords approval of the rollout plan as submitted by WBSEDCL in Annexure D. Claim of any additional short term borrowing for implementation of the above may be made in the APR of the relevant years with proper justification.
- 2.0 A copy of the order shall be posted in the website of the Commission.
- 3.0 WBSEDCL shall download a copy of the order from the website of the Commission and act on it.

Sd/-
(PULAK KUMAR TEWARI)
MEMBER

Sd/-
(MALLELA VENKATESWARA RAO)
CHAIRPERSON

Dated: 20.02.2024

Sd/-
(SECRETARY)