



**ORDER  
OF THE  
WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
IN SUO MOTU PROCEEDING**

**IN  
CASE NO: SM-27/21-22**

**IN REGARD TO SUO-MOTU ORDER OF THE WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION REGARDING SOLARIZATION OF AGRICULTURE  
PUMP/CONSUMER UNDER PM-KUSUM SCHEME**

**SRI SUTIRTHA BHATTACHARYA, CHAIPERSON  
SRI DURGADAS GOSWAMI, MEMBER  
SRI PULAK KUMAR TEWARI, MEMBER**

**DATE: 24.08.2021**



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Suo-Motu order of the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission regarding solarization of agriculture pump / consumer under PM-KUSUM scheme



**FACTS IN BRIEF**

- 1.0 The Commission vide letter Ref no. WBERC/OA-303/18-19/105 dated 18.01.2021 directed WBSEDCL to submit their plan for solar pump energisation under PM-KUSUM scheme. In reply WBSEDCL on 11.02.2021 submitted that, they have planned for solarization of 700 nos. agriculture pumps in Purba Bardhaman, Birbhum and Hooghly districts of West Bengal.
- 2.0 Now, WBSEDCL vide letter dated 17.08.2021 submitted that, they have obtained sanction for solarization of 700 nos. individual agriculture pump under Component-C of PM-KUSUM and the work is scheduled to be completed within December 2021. To finalise the connection management system in their portal under PM-KUSUM scheme, WBSEDCL in their letter dated 17.08.2021 has prayed before the Commission to approve the connection procedure (WBSEDCL PROCEDURES – C (2021)) submitted on 31.03.2021 before the Commission for net-metering and net-billing as per regulation 16.9 of WBERC RE 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment.

**OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

**3.0 Component -C of PM-KUSUM Scheme:**

It is noted that under Component-C of PM-KUSUM scheme, individual farmers having grid connected agriculture pump will be supported to solarise pumps. Solar PV capacity up to two times of pump capacity in kW is allowed under the scheme. The farmer will be able to use the generated solar power to meet the irrigation needs and the excess solar power will be purchased by distribution licensees at the rate decided by the respective State/SERC. Regarding modalities the followings are specified:

*“DISCOM may adopt any of the modalities for solarisation of pumps viz,  
(i) Net-metering: in this case the agriculture pump will continue to run at rated capacity taking power from solar panels and balance power from grid, if required, and in case solar power generation is higher than*



West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission

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*required by pump, the additional solar power would be fed to the grid;  
(ii) Pump to run on solar power only: in this case the pump will run from the solar power as in case of stand-alone solar pump and no power will be drawn from the grid for operation of pump. In case solar power generation is higher than required by pump, the additional solar power would be fed to the grid."*

- 4.0 In the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Cogeneration and Generation of Electricity from Renewable sources of Energy) (First Amendment) Regulations 2020 [hereinafter referred as WBERC RE 1st Amendment], net-metering is applicable for agriculture consumers, but there is no scope of sale of any surplus power under net-metering. Moreover, agriculture consumers can only install solar PV upto their sanctioned load/contract capacity whereas under Component-C, it is allowed to install capacity upto 2 times of their pump capacity.
- 5.0 It is also noted that, WBSEDCL under their detailed procedure submitted on 31.03.2021 in addition to detailed procedure for processing applications and providing connections under net-metering & net-billing also proposed to allow following relaxations regarding KUSUM scheme:
- (i) Allow to install solar PV beyond sanctioned load/ contract demand of the consumer in case of government scheme or scheme prepared in line with KUSUM;
  - (ii) exemption of application fees of the applications through Govt. Schemes/Schemes prepared in line with government schemes like 'KUSUM' etc;
- 6.0 In view of 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 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment is being dealt separately.







Suo-Motu order of the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission regarding solarization of agriculture pump / consumer under PM-KUSUM scheme



Order

7.0 The Commission for smooth implementation of Component-C of PM-KUSUM scheme of Government of India, using its general power under regulation 19 of West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Cogeneration and Generation of Electricity from Renewable sources of Energy) Regulations 2013, directs as below:

- (i) For connectivity of agriculture consumers under Component-C of PM-KUSUM scheme, capacity of solar installation can be upto 2 times of the pump capacity or as may be specified by appropriate government from time to time;
- (ii) Regarding connectivity to agriculture consumers under Component-C of PM-KUSUM scheme, WBSEDCL need not collect any application fee and shall follow the methodologies proposed by them in detailed procedure submitted under regulation 16.9 of WBERC RE 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment. However, in case any modification is suggested by the Commission in the subsequent order during approval of the detailed procedure, the same shall be suitably incorporated by WBSEDCL.
- (iii) Till any rate is specified by the State Government, WBSEDCL shall purchase excess power from agriculture consumers under Component-C of PM-KUSUM scheme at the generic tariff rate to be notified by the Commission from time to time under clause (2) of schedule -2 of WBERC RE 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment.

8.0 Let a copy of the order be served upon WBSEDCL.

sd/-

(PULAK KUMAR TEWARI)  
MEMBER

sd/-

(DURGADAS GOSWAMI)  
MEMBER

sd/-

(SUTIRTHA BHATTACHARYA)  
CHAIRPERSON

Dated: 24.08.2021

  
Secretary



West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission

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