



**ORDER
OF THE
WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
IN CASE NO. OA-377/21-22**

IN REGARD TO THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY INDIA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED FOR APPROVAL OF DETAILED PROCEDURE FOR RECEIVING AND DISPOSAL OF APPLICATION FOR CONNECTIVITY OF SOLAR PV GENERATING SYSTEM OF ELIGIBLE CONSUMERS AS REQUIRED UNDER REGULATION 16.9 OF THE WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (COGENERATION AND GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY) (FIRST AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2020

PRESENT:

SRI SUTIRTHA BHATTACHARYA, CHAIRPERSON

SRI DURGADAS GOSWAMI, MEMBER

SRI PULAK KUMAR TEWARI, MEMBER

DATE: 10.12.2021



FACTS IN BRIEF:

- 1.0 India Power Corporation Limited (in short 'IPCL') vide letter dated 31.03.2021 submitted a detailed procedure for receiving and disposal of applications for connectivity of the Solar PV Generating System (SPGS) of eligible consumers under net billing and net metering mechanism for approval of the Commission. Subsequently, IPCL has submitted the procedure through an application vide letter dated 16.09.2021 in terms of Regulation 16.9 of the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Cogeneration and Generation of Electricity from Renewable Sources of Energy) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2020 (in short 'RE 1st Amendment Regulations'). The Commission admitted the application in Case No. OA – 377/21-22.
- 2.0 The application of IPCL inter-alia states the following:
 - 2.1 IPCL has prepared a general procedure for receiving and disposal of the applications for connectivity of SPGS of the eligible consumers under net billing and net metering mechanism, in terms of regulation 16.9 of the RE 1st Amendment Regulations which has been broadly described below:
 - (i) The eligible consumer can apply for net metering / net billing in the prescribed application form with a copy of recent energy bill to IPCL.
 - (ii) A standard agreement will be executed with IPCL, if the rooftop Solar PV generating system are found in order and in line with the regulations.
 - (iii) In case of Net Billing, IPCL shall enter into a Power Purchase Agreement at a generic tariff as determined by the Commission.
 - (iv) Entire quantum of electricity generated shall be procured by the distribution licensee and shall raise the bill on the consumer in accordance with the equations given in the regulation. At the end of financial year any outstanding billing credit shall not be paid by IPCL.
 - (v) Solar PV generation meter, net meter, check meter in case of Net Billing arrangement will be installed by IPCL at a cost to be borne by the consumer.
 - (vi) All applicable fees for Application, Installation testing, Device installation etc. shall be in accordance with the regulations.



- 3.0 The Commission directed IPCL to publish the gist of their application as approved by the Commission inviting suggestions, objections or comments from the stakeholders in respect of the procedure. IPCL, accordingly, published the gist of the application in (i) the "Ananda Bazar Patrika", (ii) "The Telegraph", and (iii) the "Aajkal" on 02.11.2021 inviting suggestions and objections on their application within 14 days (including the date of publication) of publication of the notice in Newspaper. No suggestions, objections or comments have been received by the Commission within the stipulated time-period.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMISSION:

- 4.0 In terms of regulation 16.9 of the RE 1st Amendment Regulations notified on 22.12.2020, Distribution Licensees were required to submit a detailed procedure within 30 days for receiving and disposal of applications for connectivity of the solar PV generating system of the eligible consumers and submit it before the Commission for approval. The Commission had extended the last date of submission of the procedure upto 31.03.2021 based on the prayers of the Distribution Licensees.
- 5.0 The Commission observes that, subsequently on 31.12.2020, the Ministry of Power, Government of India has notified Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 wherein certain procedural guidelines and timeframe have been proposed to facilitate setting up of Solar PV system at the consumer premises.
- 6.0 Thus, the Commission finds it suitable to analyse the detailed procedure submitted by IPCL in light of the provisions of RE 1st Amendment Regulations along with the broad procedural guidelines proposed in the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 and observes the followings:
- a) In clause 14 of the procedure, IPCL proposed application fees will be in accordance with the regulations. The Commission finds it suitable to make a simple and uniform application fees structure among the licensees across the State. Accordingly, the application fees for all LV & MV consumers are allowed as Rs. 500 + applicable GST and for all HV&EHV consumers as Rs. 2000 + applicable GST.
 - b) IPCL has not submitted any timelines for allowing connection under Net Metering or Net Billing Arrangement in their application. The Commission observes that the steps proposed by IPCL in their detailed procedures need to be modified as below for