



In regard to the application submitted by West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL) for approval of power sale agreement executed on 30.06.2021 by and between WBSEDCL and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) for purchase of 100 MW Wind-Solar Hybrid renewable energy power by WBSEDCL



- 2.5 WBSEDCL submitted that the Wind-Solar Hybrid renewable energy power shall help them to meet the solar and non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligation requirement.
- 2.6 WBSEDCL vide letter dated 09.06.2022 submitted the following:
- (i) The estimated quantum of annual solar energy and wind energy available from the hybrid project will vary from 215.23 MU to 296.98 MU and 93.11 MU to 124.14 MU respectively at 36.66% to 42.5% CUF;
  - (ii) WBSEDCL has entered into 2 more PPAs with SECI to purchase RE power in addition to the instant PPA under this application. WBSEDCL has estimated a total of 695 MU of Renewable Energy from all 3 PPAs with SECI (50% availability considered in view of expected COD in the mid of FY 2022 – 23). This will help WBSEDCL to achieve 1027 MU of total RE power during 2022 – 23.
- 2.7 In view of above, WBSEDCL has prayed before the Commission to approve the said PSA dated 30.06.2021.
- 3.0 The Commission had directed WBSEDCL to publish the gist of their application as approved by the Commission in terms of paragraph 8.12 of Tariff Order dated 04.07.2018 of WBSEDCL. WBSEDCL, accordingly had published the gist of the petition in (i) the "Pratidin", (ii) the "Times of India", (iii) the "Ananda Bazar Patrika" and (iv) the "Sanmarg" on 29.01.2022 inviting suggestions and objections on their petition to be submitted within 14 (fourteen) days of publication of the gist. No suggestion and objection were received by the Commission within the stipulated time-period.
- 4.0 Subsequently, WBSEDCL vide letter dated 08.03.2022 has submitted that the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has adopted the tariff in respect of the Wind-Solar Hybrid power projects vide order dated 21.12.2021 in Petition No. 179/AT/2021 and forwarded a copy of the order.

**Point of determination:**

- 5.0 Clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 86 of the Electricity Act 2003 inter-alia specifies that, while discharging its function, the State Commission shall regulate electricity purchase and procurement process of distribution licensees including the price at which electricity shall be procured from the generating companies or licensees or from other sources through



In regard to the application submitted by West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL) for approval of power sale agreement executed on 30.06.2021 by and between WBSEDCL and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) for purchase of 100 MW Wind-Solar Hybrid renewable energy power by WBSEDCL



agreements for purchase of power for distribution and supply within the State. Further, in terms of Regulation 7.4.1 of the Tariff Regulations, prior approval of the Commission is required for every agreement or arrangement for power procurement by a licensee entered into after 09.02.2007, except for short term procurement.

### **Observations of the Commission:**

#### 6.0 Requirement of power procurement:

6.1 The Commission being guided by the Tariff Policy, noted that the Ministry of Power (MoP) vide Order dated 14.06.2018 has specified the long-term growth trajectory of Renewable Purchase Obligation in terms of paragraph 6.4 (1) of the Tariff Policy, 2016. The Commission observes that WBSEDCL has proposed availability of 359.735 MU (on average) from the instant power purchase agreement with SECI considering the commissioning of full capacity in the mid of 2022 – 23. As submitted by WBSEDCL, this instant purchase of renewable power along with the already approved PPAs will increase the estimated renewable energy during 2022 – 23 to 1027.88 MU from 332.76 MU in 2021-22. The Commission further observes that, WBSEDCL in its tariff petition has proposed to purchase 3445 MU renewable power from short-term market to meet its RPO, which has been admitted in the Tariff order. With the proposed PPAs, reliance on short-term market for RE power will reduce.

#### 7.0 Price of power purchase:

7.1 The Commission observes that as per the Power Sale Agreement, WBSEDCL will purchase 100 MW Wind-Solar Hybrid renewable energy power from SECI at Rs. 2.41 per kWh plus a trading margin to SECI at Rs. 0.07 per kWh for 25 years. Further, such price is lower than the renewable price of power exchange (Rs. 5.29 /kWh discovered in power exchange (IEX) during FY 2021 – 22). The Tariff has also been discovered through competitive bidding and is well below the average power purchase cost of WBSEDCL and thus, stand-alone economic as compared to the purchase from coal based thermal power stations approved in the Tariff Order of 2021 - 22.

7.2 The Commission also observes that no inter-state transmission charge will be levied on transmission of electricity generated from solar and wind sources through ISTS for sale of power by the projects to be commissioned within 30.06.2025 for 25 years from the date of commissioning of the project as per the notification of the Ministry of Power dated