



सत्यमेव जयते



ORDER
OF THE
WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF
CASE NO: WBERC/OA-435/22-23

IN REGARD TO THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED (WBSEDCL) FOR IN-PRINCIPLE CLEARANCE IN RESPECT OF INVESTMENT FOR INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 125 MW (AC) SOLAR PV POWER PLANT AT GOALTORE OF PASCHIM MEDINIPUR DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL IN TERMS OF REGULATION 2.11.1 OF THE WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF TARIFF) REGULATIONS, 2011 AS AMENDED.

PRESENT:

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

DATE: 04.08.2023



CASE IN BRIEF

1.0 WBSEDCL has submitted a petition in terms of regulation 2.11.1 of West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2011 for 'in principle' investment approval of Rs. 750 crores for installation and commissioning of 125 MW Solar PV plant at Goaltore of Paschim Midnapore District, West Bengal.

2.0 The Petition contains the following prayers:

"a) Approve total investment of Rs. 750 crore for installation and commissioning of 125 MW(AC) Solar PV Power plant at Goaltore of Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal by West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL) in terms of regulation 2.11.1 of the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2011 as amended.

b) Pass an order as the Hon'ble Commission may deem fit and proper keeping in mind the fact and circumstances of the case."

3.0 The Petition has been admitted by the Commission on 19.09.2022 and marked as OA-435/22-23.

4.0 The Regulation 2.11.1 of West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2011 is reproduced as below:

"2.11 Mitigation of Regulatory Uncertainty and Risk

2.11.1 In order to remove any uncertainty in electricity business any licensee or generating company may submit any application to



the Commission for getting 'in principle' clearance on any issue and/or for incurring any expenditure for which there is no specific approval mechanism mentioned under the regulations and have an impact on the tariff of the licensee or generating company prospectively:

Provided that in issuing such 'in principle' clearance, the Commission shall follow such procedure as is deemed necessary."

5.0 The petitioner (WBSEDCL) has submitted the following facts in the instant petition:

a) In order to fulfil the solar energy Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) target, Department of Power & NES, GoWB entrusted WBSEDCL to undertake necessary measure for setting up of grid connected solar PV Power Plants at different districts of the State.

b) The instant petition has been filed for installation and commissioning of 125 MW (AC) Solar PV Power plant at Goaltore of Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared by WBSEDCL that envisaged the suitability of the proposed site along with designing size and shape of the plant, power availability with financial details including cost estimates etc. Total project cost comes to tune of Rs. 750 crore, including GST. The land for the project has been allotted free of cost.

c) The petitioner (WBSEDCL) at para #8 of the petition has submitted the benefits of the project, which are as follows: