

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Present: Shri. R. Preman Dinaraj

OP.No.13/20

- In the matter of : Waiver/reduction of interest for delayed payment as per Schedule-1 of miscellaneous charges of Kerala Electricity Supply code –2014.
- Petitioner : M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) represented by Shri. R. Satheesh , Chief Engineer (E)
- Respondents : 1. M/s. Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd. (KSEBL) represented by Shri. K.G.P. Namboothiri, Exe. Engineer
2. M/s. Thrissur Corporation Electricity Department (TCED) represented by Shri. Jose, Electrical Engineer

Daily Order dated 17.06.2020

The Matter was heard through video conferencing on 15.06.2020 at 02.00 PM.

2. The Petitioner represented by Shri. R. Satheesh, Chief Engineer Electrical submitted that BSNL is now facing an unprecedented cash crunch and the waiver/reduction of interest for delayed payment of Electricity Bills imposed by the respondents as per the provisions of Kerala Electricity supply code-2014 may be considered favourably. He also submitted that they had made a representation to Govt. of Kerala for these reliefs.
3. The Petitioner further submitted that the specific prayers in the petition are for (a) Waiver of interest/penalty for delayed payments and (b) Allowing the petitioner to settle the bill within a time limit up to 60 days from the date of issue of the bills.
4. In response to the Commission's enquiry regarding the current status of the representation submitted to the Government of Kerala by the petitioner, BSNL submitted that they are not aware of its present status.
5. The Respondent (1), KSEBL represented by Shri. K.G.P. Namboothiri, Executive Engineer submitted that, the petitioner was allowed all the relaxations issued by the Government of Kerala in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. No disconnections were effected on account of delayed payment and enlargement

of time was allowed on a monthly basis for payment of dues. At present, the interest for delayed payment was charged as per the provisions of the Kerala Electricity Supply Code-2014 and the distribution licensee is not empowered to relax any of these provisions. KSEB Ltd also submitted that, waiver of interest will burden the other consumers of the State due to the passing of this component in the tariff.

6. The Respondent (2), TCED represented by Shri. Jose, Electrical Engineer submitted that the petitioner was given sufficient time to settle the bills and disconnections are not effected till date. Further, the relaxations announced by the Government of Kerala in view of the Covid-19 pandemic are also allowed. TCED also stated that the arrear of the petitioner up to June 2020 is about Rs. 66 lakh. In view of the Covid-19 situation, TCED is facing considerable cash deficit and requested for directions for immediate payment of bills. Regarding the waiver of interest on delayed payment, TCED submitted that the same will affect other consumers also, or else will lead to revenue reduction.
7. The petitioner BSNL submitted that the request for waiver of interest for delayed payment and other prayers in the petition may be decided favourably taking into account its importance in providing telecom services during national calamities, its social commitments and also considering it as one of the major consumers of Electricity for the respondents.
8. The Commission directed the respondents to ensure the relaxations announced by the Government of Kerala in view of the Covid-19 pandemic be extended to the petitioner without fail. The Commission also directed the petitioner to release payment to the second respondent as well on a proportionate basis as in the case of Respondent (1).
9. The Commission further directed the respondents to submit their written comments on the petition by 22.06.2020 to the Commission, if not submitted earlier.
10. Hearing concluded. Reserved for Orders.

Sd/-
Preman Dinaraj
Chairman

Approved for issue

Sd/-
Secretary