BEFORE THE HON'BLE GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION-- AT AHMEDABAD

Date 5th December, 2000

CORAM Shri B.M. Oza Member (Fin.) and Shri R. K. Sharma Member (Tech.)

CASE NO. 28/2000

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FILED BY DR. VITHAL KAMAT
V/S.
GUJARAT ELECTRICITY BOARD

ORAL ORDER
5/12/2000

We have heard Dr. Vithal Kamat for the applicant and Shri H.B. Shah on behalf of Gujarat Electricity Board. In his application before the Commission, Dr. Kamat made the following points.

(a) There were restrictions on the purchase of meters, namely meters with only ISI marking were purchased; thereby new meters with superior value which do not have ISI specification were not encouraged.

(b) The Government of Gujarat has given direction to GEB to purchase such meters thereby not encouraging R& D.

(c) The GEB in discriminatorily purchases meters without scientific basis.

(d) The R& D is not encouraged by GEB inasmuch as even in respect of meters provided for trial, report in respect of result of their meters, performance etc were not being made available to Center for Apparent Energy Research which Dr. Kamat represents.

(e) The quality of meters purchased by GEB is not upto high standard.

(f) In the Purchase of meters, GEB should follow merit order purchase.

(g) Dr. Kamat mentioned that his proposal should be taken up in specified areas for micro-distribution, which will reduce losses below 5% in that area. He also mentioned about restructuring of L.T distribution with a view to reduce losses.

2. Speaking on behalf of GEB, Shri H.B Shah mentioned that it was not the function of the Board to encourage R& D and that Dr. Kamat should approach appropriate authority. He also mentioned that purchase of ISI meters are absolutely necessary to ensure proper standard in purchases and it is also legal requirement to use such meters. He expressed the inability of the Board to go for meters which were not having ISI mark. As regards the reports on the field trial of meters supplied by Dr. Kamat, Shri Shah mentioned that GEB have no objection to make available such reports and they would like to look into this matter with a view to do needful. Shri Shah mentioned that for the matter for which Dr. Kamat is seeking relief is not within the jurisdiction of the Commission and he has to approach appropriate authority.

3. The Commission has carefully considered the arguments advanced by both the sides. The Commission in its order dated 10-10-2000 has already given directions to the GEB regarding drawing up the plan for loss reduction and submit the same to the Commission indicating the necessary measures that are proposed to be taken up. Having given this policy direction, it is really not for the Commission to get into the details, as to how the plan is going to be implemented.

4. The matter regarding the policy of using meters is an administrative matter with the Board and the Commission would not like to interfere into such purchases. The applicant has not made out a case that the entire system of purchasing results in inefficient working and therefore the Commission is reluctant to interfere with the purchase policy of the meters which is presently being followed by the Board.

5. As regards sharing of information in encouraging R& D and to provide the research institutions with the result of field trials carried out with the meters supplied by them, the Commission notes the assurance given by the Board and commends that in such cases the Board should follow a suitable policy and enter into constructive co-operation with the R & D institutions so that both stand benefited in achieving the ultimate objectives. In the same way the Commission hopes that the various proposals advanced by Dr. Kamat regarding micro distribution for reduction of losses will receive serious consideration by the Board. The Commission would suggest that Dr. Kamat should approach the Board with necessary details and proposals so that he can give a helping hand to them in achieving their aim to reduce the losses. In the end, in view of the reasons stated above, the Commission is not in a position to provide any relief to the applicant as prayed for. The application is therefore dismissed. No order as to cost.

Sd/- **Sd/-**

B.M.OZA **R.K.SHARMA**
ACTING CHAIRMAN/ **MEMBER(T)**
MEMBER(F)

Place: Ahmedabad
Date: 5th December, 2000