

**BEFORE THE GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
AT GANDHINAGAR**

Petition No. 1972 of 2021

In the matter of:

Tariff for Agricultural Consumers of Torrent Power Limited (Ahmedabad Unit)

Petitioner : Energy & Petrochemicals Department (EPD),
Government of Gujarat,
Block No.5, 5th Floor,
New Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar.

Represented by : Shri Dipesh Raj

Respondent : Torrent Power Limited (Ahmedabad)
"Samanvay", 600, Tapovan, Ambavadi,
Ahmedabad-380015

Represented by : Shri Chetan Bundela and Others

CORAM:

**Mehul M. Gandhi, Member
S.R. Pandey, Member**

Date: 10/06/2021

ORDER

1. This matter is heard through video conference on 8th June, 2021 due to COVID pandemic. The Petitioner, Energy & Petrochemicals Department (EPD), Government of Gujarat (GoG), has filed the present Petition with the prayers allowing a uniform HP based tariff of Rs. 665/HP/Year for Agricultural Consumers of Torrent Power Limited (Ahmedabad Unit) for a further period of one year i.e. from 1st April, 2020 to 31st March, 2021 and the subsidy amount paid by the State Government within the provisions of the budget estimates for the year 2020-21

2. The facts mentioned in the Petition are stated as under:
- 2.1. The State Government had decided to subsidize the distribution companies i.e. erstwhile Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) (now Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited - GUVNL) as well as the Ahmedabad Electricity Company Ltd. (AEC) (now Torrent Power Limited – Ahmedabad Unit) for losses due to implementation of Horse Power (HP) based Tariff for the agricultural sector since 1987. The State Government has continued the pre-revised HP based Tariff decided on 10.10.2000 for the consumers of erstwhile GEB and TPL-Ahmedabad for the period up till now.
- 2.2. The State Government has been subsidising the agricultural consumers of TPL – Ahmedabad to the extent of difference between the tariff decided by the Commission and the applicable HP based tariff for agricultural consumers of erstwhile GEB (now GUVNL).
- 2.3. The State Government has decided to extend the relief in tariff of Agricultural Consumers of Torrent Power Limited (Ahmedabad Unit) for a further period of one year i.e. from 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021 in line with the consumers of State DISCOMs subject to the condition that such connections will be supervised by checking / surprise checking by the appropriate authority of the company as well as the Electrical Inspectors, and if the consumption of electricity is found for the purposes other than agriculture, such connections shall be disconnected permanently. This decision has been communicated to Torrent Power Limited (Ahmedabad Unit) vide GR No. TPL-12-2019-2373-K dated 25.03.2021.
- 2.4. The prevailing HP based tariff for the consumers of distribution licensees of unbundled GEB (GUVNL), after exemption of 5% ED is as follows:

Connected Load in HP	Tariff applicable w.e.f. 01.12.2019
Up to 7.5 HP	Uniform Tariff of Rs. 665/HP/Year for all HP based Agricultural consumers
Above 7.5 HP	

- 2.5. The Petitioner submitted that the State Government has approved Rs. 170.00 Lakh in the Revised Budget Estimates for FY 2020-21 and released an amount of Rs. 170.00 Lakh which is sufficient against the estimated for FY 2020-21 and outstanding claims of the Company.
3. Upon a query about the status of claims to Shri Chetan Bundela, on behalf of the respondent Torrent Power Limited stated that claim of the Respondent for FY 2020-21 is Rs. 170.71 Lakh after adjusting the surplus of the previous year of Rs. 19.00 Lakh. An amount of Rs. 170.00 Lakh has been received from the State Government during FY 2020-21. Hence, there is shortfall amount of Rs. 0.71 Lakh, which needs to be released at the earliest.
- 3.1. On a query from the Commission about the payment of shortfall amount, Shri Dipesh Raj, on behalf of the Petitioner, has replied that the said amount will be released after verification of the claims.
4. In view of the above, we have carefully considered the submissions made by the parties. We have also perused the orders passed by the Commission on 05.09.2002 in Petition No. 34 of 2000 regarding the tariff for supply of energy to different categories of consumers by TPL-Ahmedabad in its license area as well as the Commission's Tariff Orders for erstwhile GEB consumers including the agricultural consumers. The Government has decided to extend the relief in agricultural tariff to TPL-Ahmedabad consumers for a period of one year i.e. from 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021.
5. The agricultural consumer has to pay on the basis of HP based tariff decided by the Government i.e. a Uniform Tariff of Rs. 665/HP/Annum for all HP based Agriculture consumers for the period from 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021. The difference between the billing on the basis of TPL-Ahmedabad Tariff Schedule and the above payment received from the agricultural consumers shall be the subsidy from the State Government.
- 5.1. In view of the above, we find that relief can be granted to TPL-Ahmedabad agricultural consumers subject to the condition that such connections shall be

supervised by checking / surprise checking by the appropriate authority of the Respondent as well as the Electrical Inspectors and if the consumption is found to be for the purposes other than agriculture, such connections shall be disconnected permanently. Hence, we allow the present Petition with the following stipulations:

The HP based tariff as mentioned in para 2.4 above is hereby allowed to be effective for working out subsidy amount for agricultural consumers of TPL-Ahmedabad for the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March, 2021 subject to fulfilment of the condition as mentioned above and that the calculation of consumption for 8 hours shall be verified by the Chief Electrical Inspector, Gandhinagar.

- 5.2. The petitioner is directed to pay out Rs. 0.71 Lakhs to the respondent after due verification.
6. This petition is allowed accordingly.
7. With this order, this Petition stands disposed of.

-Sd-
[S. R. Pandey]
Member

-Sd-
[Mehul M. Gandhi]
Member

Place: Gandhinagar
Date: 10/06/2021