

MADHYA PRADESH ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
BHOPAL

**Sub: Petition seeking extension of relaxation granted under Petition No. 17 of 2022 in line with the Clause 8.1 read with Clause 11.19 & Clause 11.22 of the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Supply Code 2021 from Mandatory installation of smart pre-payment meter for all new connections as well as for replacement of the stopped/defective/burnt meters and to extend such relaxation for electrification of PVGT/other households.**

**ORDER**

**(Hearing through Video Conferencing)**

**(Date of Order: 05 March, 2024)**

- i. MP Power Management Company Ltd. (MPPMCL) : **Petitioners**
- ii. MP Poorv Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Ltd. (East Discom)
- iii. MP Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Ltd. (West Discom)
- iv. MP Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Ltd. (Central Discom)

Shri Manoj Dubey, Advocate and Shri Lokesh Malviya, DGM appeared on behalf of Petitioners. Shri DP Ahirwar, CGM appeared on behalf of Central Discom. Shri Ankur Gupta, AE appeared on behalf of West Discom.

- i. The petitioners have filed the subject petition seeking extension of relaxation granted earlier under Petition No. 17 of 2022 in line with the Clause 8.1 read with Clause 11.19 & Clause 11.22 of the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Supply Code 2021 and amendments thereof, from mandatory installation of smart pre-payment meter for all new connections as well as for replacement of the stopped/defective/burnt meters and to extend such relaxation for electrification of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVGT )/other households. The petitioners have made following prayers :
  - a. *Take the accompanying Instant Petition of the above Petitioners on record and treat it as complete;*
  - b. *To extend the relaxation as granted under Petition No. 17 of 2022 providing new connection with smart pre-payment meter or pre-payment meter and for replacement of*

*the stopped/defective/burnt meters as well till the sunset of RDSS Scheme, i.e., till 31.03.2026;*

- c. To extend such relaxation as sought under prayer (b) for electrification of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) households and/or other households too;*
  - d. To allow Discoms to service any new connection (including electrification of PVTG households and/or other households) or replacement of stop / defective / burnt meter with conventional / normal meter in case such request falls under cluster / area(s) / feeder(s) wherein the smart prepaid meter installation is yet to be initiated;*
  - e. Condone any inadvertent omissions / errors / shortcomings and permit the Petitioner to add / change / modify / alter portion(s) of this filing and make further submissions as may be required at a later stage.*
3. Petitioners submitted that time line for consumer metering under Phase 1 and Phase 2 of RDSS was specified as December 2023 and March 2025 respectively. Accordingly the applicability of relaxation as accorded by the Commission vide order dated 29.07.2022 in Petition No. 17/2022 will also be seized. While the implementation of smart metering program is under its full swing wherein the Petitioners have awarded substantial work under phase I, the total target (including complete metering with installation, commissioning and operation of smart meters with required infrastructure in operation), as envisaged under Phase 1 might not be achieved within the specified timelines. Therefore, the need for extension of existing relaxation is envisaged.
4. Petitioners further informed that the Ministry of Power, GoI, had launched the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya) in October, 2017. Since the launch of Saubhagya scheme, as on 31.03.2021, all the States have reported 100% electrification of all the willing un- electrified households, identified before 31.03.2019. The said scheme stands closed, however, for electrification of any left-out households, which existed before 31.03.2019 (period of execution of SAUBHAGYA) but were somehow missed out, the Central Government in line with its commitment, is further supporting States under the ongoing Scheme of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). In addition, all identified beneficiary Households of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) across States under PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) are also included in the RDSS scheme. The Monitoring Committee of RDSS Scheme in its

26th meeting held on 13.12.2023 has approved the norms for electrification of identified Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) household under RDSS. As per the norms for the electrification of PVTG households prepaid or Smart prepaid meter is to be deployed. Since, the underlying requirements for smart metering solutions, i.e., fulfilment of prerequisites/ infrastructure as elaborated at paras above, remains the same for every connection including electrification of PVTG households too, the relaxation is therefore squarely needed for such connections. In view of above, petitioners have requested to extend the relaxation as granted under Petition No. 17 of 2022 till the sunset of the RDSS Scheme, i.e., till 31.03.2026.

5. The petitioners have made following broad submission in petition:-

- i. *It is submitted that MP Discoms have planned to implement RDSS Scheme in two phases. Under Phase I around 34.72 lakhs consumer metering is envisaged be done and in Phase II around 99 lakhs metering is proposed to be undertaken. The Phase I of the scheme is further proposed to be implemented in two parts, i.e., part 1 & part 2. Most of the work under part 1 is being implemented with the financial support from KfW development bank. Under part 1 of Phase I, urban feeder with AT&C losses >15% have been selected for Smart Metering. All the DTRs and consumers of such selected feeders will be covered under Smart Metering to ensure DTR level real time energy auditing. The feeders with below 15% AT&C losses already have higher billing efficiency hence, they are not selected under this project. The remaining consumers as per RDSS sanctioned plan which fall under the target of phase I which is not covered under part 1 of phase I are covered under part 2 of phase I. The rationale for undertaking cluster approach and selected areas is only to have higher operational efficiency in terms of communication and energy accounting and to enhance billing efficiency.*
- ii. *As against the target of 34.72 lakhs smart meter under phase I, the current status is as shown in the Table below:*

Discom	Sanctioned under RDSS			RFP Issued (Qty.)	Work already awarded and work execution Started	Bidding /Award of work under progress (Qty)	Meter installed till date
	Phase-1	Phase-2	Total				
East	11,53,627	41,21,545	52,75,172	9,83,524 (KfW)	9,83,524 (KfW)	8,52,173	81,526
				8,52,173			
Central	13,30,249	28,05,542	41,35,791	9,57,758 (KfW)	NIL	9,57,758 (KfW)	NIL
				11,42,040	NIL	11,42,040	
West	9,88,802	29,95,251	39,84,053	3,79,709 (KfW)	3,79,709 (KfW)	41,586 (HT & LT high Value consumers)	1,34,285
				5,53,013	5,53,013		
Total	34,72,678	99,22,338	1,33,95,016	23,20,991 (KfW)	19,15,616	2,993,557	2,08,434
				25,47,226			
				<b>48,68,217 (Total)</b>			

*iii. From the table above, it can be seen that against the target of 34.72 lakhs, the Petitioners have already awarded smart metering work for 19.15 lakhs. Further, the bidding process for around 29.51 lakhs of smart meter is completed and the L1 bidders have also discovered. The award of work against L1 bidder is under progress. Accordingly, it can be seen that the Petitioners have already initiated work for total 48.66 lakhs of smart meters against the target of 34.72 lakhs. While the Petitioners have been taking all possible efforts to achieve the specified timelines for completion of smart metering under the sanctioned phases, the Hon'ble Commission would appreciate the fact that the competitive bidding process is a time taking process which is beyond the control of the Petitioners. While the substantial work has already been awarded, the total number of smart prepaid meters installed as on date stand at around 2.08 lakhs only. Despite of remarkable efforts by the Petitioners, it is envisaged that the total installation target of smart prepaid meter under Phase I, i.e., 34.72 lakhs would not be possible by the time-line of Phase I, i.e., by December, 2023.*

*iv. The Petitioners would like to bring kind attention of the Hon'ble Commission that the implementation or roll out of smart metering is being undertaken in phased manner with selected cluster or areas/feeders etc. Based on such phased approach of installation the work will continue till the sun set of the RDSS scheme. The clause 4.7.2 of the RDSS*

*guidelines allows the work to be executed till sunset of the scheme and remain eligible for release of Central Government grant as under:*

*“4.7.2 The sunset date for the scheme will be 31.03.2026, the works executed beyond which will not be eligible for release of Central Government grant.”*

- v. *The Petitioners would further like to submit that Smart Meter is not simply electronic meter rather it is a complete system solution which requires infrastructure like Server, network, trained resources with technical integration of data with various modules like HES, MDM and billing system. Hence, aforesaid prerequisites are to be fulfilled before installation of Smart Meters. Therefore, it is impracticable to release Smart Meter or Pre-payment Meter to individual consumer or in a standalone/ fragmented basis for any new connection as mandated in Supply Code 2021. For an instance, in case where a new connection is requested in an area where the prerequisites/ infrastructure for Smart Metering (i.e., server, network, integration with various modules like HES, MDM) is not in operation, then in such circumstance it is impracticable to release a new connection for such consumers as mandated in Supply Code. Further, the cost of operation or maintaining Smart Metering solution focused to individual new service connection in the areas where replacement of existing Non-Smart Meters into Smart Meters is yet to done, is not financially viable to Discoms.*
- vi. *The Petitioner would further like to submit that they have been making all efforts for maintaining the inventory of smart meters. However, considering the nationwide scope of the RDSS scheme and the subsequent demand for a substantial quantity of Smart Meters across India, there has been a limited availability of Smart Meter manufacturers/plants. Furthermore, the semiconductor component shortage within the industry poses a legitimate challenge, exacerbating the scarcity of hardware components during the meter procurement process.*
- vii. *Further, it is submitted that maintain voluminous inventory mainly for replacement of stop/defective/burnt meter with smart prepaid meter or prepaid meter calls for substantial amount of funds. An analysis of the tendering process reveals that the comprehensive cost*

*of a single Smart Meter, encompassing both capital and operational expenses, is approximately Rs 10,000. While Discom is granted a conditional sum of Rs 900 per meter, representing around 10% of the total cost, the onus of procuring the remaining 90% (Rs 9,000) falls on Discoms. This financial burden poses challenges, considering the uncertainties surrounding whether accrued profits will be sufficient to cover costs, including Additional Meter Infrastructure Service provider (AMISP) charges.*

- viii. *In view of the above, considering the optimal solution, it is submitted that the Petitioners would be able to serve new connection (including electrification of PVTG households and other households) with smart prepaid meter or prepaid meter for the consumer only if such request for new connection fall under the area(s)/feeder(s) wherein the contracted bidder has initiated the installation of smart prepaid meters and the required prerequisites/ infrastructure for Smart Metering is available. Similar, condition for deployment of smart prepaid meter or prepaid meter shall also prevail for replacement of stop/defective/burnt meter with smart prepaid meter. However, for new connections (including electrification of PVTG households and other households) or replacement of stop/defective/burnt if sought under the area(s)/feeder(s) wherein the prerequisites/ infrastructure for Smart Metering and installation of smart prepaid meter by the selected vendor is not yet initiated, the Petitioners would not be able to serve such request with smart prepaid meter or prepaid meter as mandated in supply code.*
- ix. *Accordingly, based on the above facts and circumstances Petitioners request the Hon'ble Commission to extend the relaxation as granted under Petition No. 17 of 2022 till the sunset of the RDSS Scheme, i.e., till 31.03.2026.*
- x. *Further, as smart metering under RDSS Scheme will be implemented in selected clusters of consumers under selected area(s)/feeder(s), any new connection requested (including electrification of PVTG households and other households) or replacement of stop/defective/burnt meter in future will be provided with Smart prepaid Meters only if the same falls in the selected cluster/area/feeder of RDSS Scheme wherein the installation of smart prepaid meter has been initiated and the prerequisites/ infrastructure for Smart Metering is available. In absence of prerequisites/ infrastructure for Smart Metering*

*solution, all kind of new service connections and replacement of stop/defective/burnt meter shall be served with conventional/normal meter till the time the associated area(s)/feeder(s) of such connections are taken up for installation of smart meters.*

6. At the hearing held on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, Petitioners were heard and asked specifically on the issue of power available with the Commission as per notification of Ministry of Power, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2022 to grant extension.
7. At the next hearing held on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, the Commission heard the Petitioners. The Commission raised specific issue in respect of the notification dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2022 issued by Ministry of Power in pursuance of relevant provisions of the CEA Regulations. Counsel for the Petitioners requested for time of 3 days to make written submission in this regard. Time was granted and case was reserved for order.
8. Subsequently, the petitioner has filed written submissions whereby following broad submissions are made .

- i. *The relevant provision of Sub-Section (1) of Section 55 of the Electricity Act, 2003 reads as below:-*

*No licensee shall supply electricity, after the expiry of two years from the appointed date, except through installation of a **correct meter** in accordance with the regulations to be made in this behalf by the Authority...*

*The term '**Correct Meter**' has been defined in the Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 notified on 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec, 2019 and the same reads as below:-*

*'**Correct Meter**' means a meter, complying the standards as specified in the schedule to these regulations.*

*Subsequently, the Ministry of Power through its notification dated 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 has notified the timelines for the replacement of existing meters with smart meters with prepayment feature.*

*Further, the MoP vide notification dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 has notified the timelines for replacement of existing meters with smart meters with prepayment feature.*

- ii. *MPERC, in exercise of powers conferred by Section 181(2)(t), Section 43 (1), Section 181(2)(x) ,Section 44, Section 48 (b), Section 50 and Section 56 of the Electricity Act 2003*

has notified the 'Madhya Pradesh Electricity Supply Code, 2021. The MPERC through its aforementioned Regulation RG-I (ii) of 2021 notified on 20<sup>th</sup> Aug'2021 (Clause 8.1 of the Supply Code) stipulates that the Hon'ble Commission may provide any exception to mandatory installation of Smart meter or prepayment meter in new connections.

It is specified in the regulation that **“Any exception to the Smart meter or prepayment meter shall have to be duly approved by the Commission. The Commission, while doing so, shall record proper justification for allowing the deviation from installation of the smart pre-payment meter or prepayment meter”**

As such there is no time line specified in the Regulations notified by the MPERC.

It is clear from the reading of the above provisions of the Electricity Act and the CEA Regulations that although the CEA shall specify the standards and type of the meters to be installed in consumer's premises but the Act does not mandate on the timelines or its extension for replacement of the existing meters.

It may be observed that the MPERC Regulation RG-I (ii) of 2021 notified on 20<sup>th</sup> Aug'2021 does not impose any limitation on the powers of Hon'ble Commission for providing exception to the mandatory installation of Smart meter or prepayment meter. The Central Regulations / Rules are meant for implementation of uniformly beneficial policies thought PAN India, whereas as per the provision of Electricity Act'2003 the State Commissions have been vested with enough powers to remove the difficulties of the state specific issues. Although the petitioners through petition P-17 of 2022 have sought relaxation against aforesaid provision and the Hon'ble Commission granted the same up to the end of Dec'2023, but the MoP vide above notification has given timeline for providing smart meters in Urban areas with AT&C losses >15% and rural areas with AT&C losses > 25% as 31<sup>st</sup> Dec'2023. This clearly indicates that the relaxation provided by the Commission vide order dated 29.07.2022 was not required at that juncture. Hence the relaxation provided by the Commission vide order dated 29.07.2022 could not be considered as relaxation for first six month at a time.

iii. Sub-section (1) of Section 55 of Electricity Act'2003 stipulates that:

55 (i) No licensee shall supply electricity, after the expiry of two years from the appointed date, except through installation of a correct meter in accordance with regulations to be made in this behalf by the Authority:



*Provided that the licensee may require the consumer to give him security for the price of a meter and enter into an agreement for the hire thereof, unless the consumer elects to purchase a meter:*

*Provided further that the State Commission may, by notification extend the said period of two years for a class or classes of persons or for such area as may be specified in that notification.*

*It may be observed that in case of continuing supply in un-metered connections the Electricity Act '2003 has empowered the State Commission to extend the period for a class or classes of persons or for such area as may be specified in that notification.*

- iv. Further under the RDSS scheme, the Discoms have to replace large no. of conventional meters with smart meters or prepayment meters. Out of total 1.76 Crore LT consumers of Discoms (excluding HT), 34% lies in urban area whereas 66% lies in rural area. There are around 1.26 Crore Domestic consumers which is around 72% of the total LT consumers of the Discoms. Out of the total domestic consumers 62% lies in rural areas. Further around 44% meters of Domestic consumers (11% in urban & 65% in rural) are defective for which there is an emphasis of Hon'ble Commission for replacement of same.*
- v. The time-lines for consumer metering under Phase-I is December, 2023 and for Phase II is March, 2025. As against the target of 34.72 lakh under phase-1 awards for 19.15 lakh Smart-meters has been issued and bidding for 29.51 lakh Smart-meters is also completed against which awards are being issued. Thus work for total 48.66 lakhs of smart meters has been initiated. In Phase-II around 99 lakhs metering is proposed to be undertaken. Installation of Smart meter under RDSS is to be done in clusters where losses are high.*
- vi. Replacement of such a large volume of domestic meters is a big challenge for Discoms for which they are committed to do so. In installation of Smart meters the Discoms have to take care for public acceptance also. Further replacement of such a large volume of defective meters which are scattered in rural as well as urban area would be requiring procurement and installation of conventional meters. Since replacement of such a large volume of domestic meters is not possible in time span of mere six months or so, the*

*Discoms have therefore seeking further relaxation up to the sunset date of RDSS which is 31.03.2026. The works executed beyond this will not be eligible for release of Central Government grant.*

- vii. *In view of above submission the petitioners therefore request this Hon'ble Commission to grant further relaxation from mandatory installation of smart meters up to the sunset date of RDSS i.e. 31.03.2026."*

**Commission's Observations and Findings:**

9. The Commission has perused the submission made by the petitioners. Vide order dated 29/07/2022 in P.No 17/2022 filed by the petitioners for seeking relaxation and exemption under Clause 8.1 read with Clause 11.19 & clause 11.22 of the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Supply Code, 2021 form mandatory installation of smart pre-payment meter or pre-payment meter for all new connections, the Commission, at para 13 (ii) and 15 of aforesaid order has directed the petitioners as under :-

*"13 (ii)..... Therefore, the Commission has decided to invoke power vested with it under clause 8.1 read with clauses 11.19 and 11.22 of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Supply Code 2021 and has decided to relax the condition of providing new connection with smart pre-payment meter or pre-payment meter for the intermediate period i.e. till the time-line prescribed by the MoP, GoI for installation of smart meter under RDSS Scheme approved vide their letter dated 17/03/2022. This condition shall be applicable for replacement of the stopped/defective/burnt meters as well. However, the Petitioners are directed to strictly follow the time-lines prescribed by the Central Government vide their letter dated 17/3/2022 for installation of smart meters under Phase 1 and 2 under RDSS.*

-----

15. *In view of the relaxation given above, the Commission hereby directs the Petitioners to adhere to the timeline prescribed by the Central Government for smart metering under phase 1 and 2 of RDSS Scheme communicated vide their letter dated 17/03/2022. However, as requested in the prayer, the petitioners are allowed to execute these works feeder wise. The Petitioners shall incorporate these works in their Capex plan. ...."*

10. Time line for meterisation of smart prepayment meters as sanctioned by competent authority in RDSS scheme vide letter dated 17/03/2022 for consumer metering is as under:

Particular	As per Sanction Letter dated 17.03.2022 issued by the Competent Authority
<u>Consumer Metering</u>	
<b>Phase - 1</b>	
All Division of AMRUT cities, with AT&C > 15%	December-2023
Urban Division with >50% Urban consumers & AT&C >15%	December-2023
Other Divisions with AT&C > 25% in base year	December-2023
Industrial and Commercial consumers	December-2023
All Government offices at Block level and above	December-2023
<b>Phase - 2</b>	
Urban Divisions with 50% Urban consumers & AT&C ≤ 15%	March-2025
All Other Division with AT&C ≤ 25%in base year	March-2025

11. The petitioners submitted that out of around 1.33 Crore smart pre-payment meters, nearly 34.72 lakhs and 99.22 lakhs smart pre-payment are to be installed under phase 1 and phase 2 of RDSS. The petitioners have already awarded around 19.15 lakhs meters while bidding process for around 29.93 nos smart meters are under progress as per following:

Discom	Sanctioned under RDSS			RFP Issued (Qty.)	Work already awarded and work execution Started	Bidding /Award of work under progress (Qty)	Meter installed till date
	Phase-1	Phase-2	Total				
East	11,53,627	41,21,545	52,75,172	9,83,524 (KfW)	9,83,524 (KfW)	8,52,173	81,526
				8,52,173			
Central	13,30,249	28,05,542	41,35,791	9,57,758 (KfW)		9,57,758 (KfW)	

Discom	Sanctioned under RDSS			RFP Issued (Qty.)	Work already awarded and work execution Started	Bidding /Award of work under progress (Qty)	Meter installed till date
	Phase-1	Phase-2	Total				
				11,42,040		11,42,040	
West	9,88,802	29,95,251	39,84,053	3,79,709 (KfW)	3,79,709 (KfW)		1,34,285
				5,53,013	5,53,013	41,586 (HT & LT high Value consumers)	
Total	34,72,678	99,22,338	1,33,95,016	23,20,991 (KfW)	19,15,616	2,993,557	2,08,434
				25,47,226			
				<b>48,68,217 (Total)</b>			

12. Petitioners also submitted that while they have been taking all possible efforts to achieve the specified timelines for completion of smart metering under the sanctioned phases, the Commission would appreciate the fact that the competitive bidding process is a time taking process which is beyond the control of the Petitioners. While the substantial work has already been awarded, the total number of smart prepaid meters installed as on date stand at around 2.08 lakhs only. Despite of remarkable efforts by the Petitioners, it is envisaged that the total installation target of smart prepaid meter under Phase I, i.e., 34.72 lakhs would not be possible by the time-line of Phase I, i.e., by December, 2023.
13. The petitioners in their prayer also sought relaxation for providing new connections with smart pre-payment meters to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) citing the reasons that households of PVTG across States under PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) are also included in the RDSS scheme as the Monitoring Committee of RDSS Scheme in its 26th meeting held on 13.12.2023 has approved the norms for electrification of identified Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) household under RDSS.
14. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA), in exercise of power conferred under section 177 (2) (c) of the Electricity Act 2003, had notified CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) (Amendment), Regulations, 2019 which is a subordinate legislation under the Act. The Regulation 4 (1) (b) of aforesaid Regulations provides as under:
- “ .....
- (b) all new Consumer Meters shall be Smart Meters with pre-payment features:*

***Provided that the existing meters, other than Smart meters, shall be replaced with Smart meters with prepayment features within a time frame as specified by the Central Government.”***

Accordingly, in pursuance to the provisions made in Regulation 4(1) (b) of the aforesaid Regulations framed under sub-section (1) of section 55 read with clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 177 of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Central Government vide Gazette notification dated 23.05.2022 has notified the timelines for replacement of existing meters with smart meters with prepayment features. Relevant provisions in respect of consumer meterisation are as under:

*“2.1 All consumers (other than agricultural consumers) in areas with communication network, shall be supplied electricity with Smart Meters working in prepayment mode, conforming to relevant IS. within the timelines specified below:*

*“All Union Territories, all electrical divisions with high AT&C Loss (Urban Areas with AT&C loss >15% and rural areas with AT&C loss >25%), Industrial and Commercial consumers, all Government offices at Block level and above, shall be metered with smart meters, with prepayment mode, by 31st December, 2023:*

*Provided that these areas shall also be covered for smart Distribution Transformer (DT) metering by the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Provider (AMISP), on a priority basis, by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023:*

***Provided also that the State Regulatory Commission may, by notification, extend the said period of implementation, giving reasons to do so, only twice but not more than six months at a time, for a class or classes of consumers or for such areas as may be specified in that notification;”***

15. It is observed that the Commission vide order dated 29/07/2022 in Petition No 17 /22 while granting relaxation has directed the Petitioners to adhere to the timeline prescribed by the Central Government for smart metering under Phase 1 and Phase 2 of RDSS Scheme. These time lines were December 2023 and March 2025 for areas covered under Phase 1 and Phase 2 respectively.
16. In the instant petition, the Petitioners have sought time extension for providing new connection with smart prepayment meters or prepayment meters and also for replacement of existing meters with Smart meters with prepayment features. The Commission observed that as far as Smart

metering works of new consumers are concerned, provisions of Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 and clause 8.1 of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Supply Code, 2021 as amended are applicable while for replacement of existing consumer meters with smart meters with pre-payment features, the provisions made in clause 4 (1) (b) of CEA (Installation and Operations of Meter) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019, as amended and the Ministry of Power, notification Ref. No. 23/35/2019-R&R, dated 23/05/2022 are applicable. In view of above, the Commission orders as under :-

- i) In exercise of powers vested with it under the Electricity (Rights of Consumers), Rules 2020 and clause 8.1 read with clauses 11.19 and 11.22 of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Supply Code 2021 and amendment thereof, the condition of providing new connection to consumers including PVTG households with smart pre-payment meter or pre-payment meter is hereby relaxed till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 on account of reasons submitted by the petitioners in this petition.
- ii) For replacement of the existing meters (including stopped/defective/burnt meters) with Smart Pre-payment meters, the Commission in exercise of powers entrusted by the Ministry of Power, vide notification Ref. No. 23/35/2019-R&R, dated 23/05/2022, grants relaxation in the timeline from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 for the areas and consumer categories as shown below.

Sr. No.	Areas	Consumers /Consumer category	Reasons for extension as submitted by the petitioners in Petition No 2/2024 and accepted by the Commission
1	2	3	4
1	All Division of AMRUT cities, with AT&C > 15%	<u>Consumer metering for following consumers' categories :-</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the Petitioners have been taking all possible efforts to achieve the specified timelines for completion of smart metering, the competitive bidding process is a time taking process which is beyond the control of the Petitioners.</li> <li>• Smart Meter is not simply electronic meter rather it is a complete system solution which requires infrastructure like Server, network, trained resources with technical integration of data with various modules like HES, MDM and billing system. Aforesaid prerequisites are to be fulfilled before installation of Smart Meters.</li> <li>• Considering the nationwide scope of the RDSS scheme and the subsequent demand for a substantial quantity of Smart Meters across India, there has been a limited availability of Smart Meter manufacturers/plants.</li> </ul>
2	Urban Division with >50% Urban consumers & AT&C >15%	Domestic consumers, Industrial and Commercial consumers and all	
3	Other Divisions with AT&C > 25% in base year	Government offices at Block level and above	

17. The Secretary of the Commission is directed to issue a separate notification as per Annexure-1 in this regard.

With above directions the petition stands disposed of.

**(Prashant Chaturvedi)**  
**Member**

**(Gopal Srivastava)**  
**Member (Law)**

**(S. P. S. Parihar)**  
**Chairman**