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Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission

5th Floor, Metro Plaza, Arera Colony, Bittan Market, Bhopal 462 016

Suo Motu Petition no. 107/2004

Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission Bhopal

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEW OF STOPPED/DEFECTIVE METERS IN R-15.

ORDER (Passed on this day 24th August, 2004)

Shri Y.P.Rai, S.E O/o C.E.(O&M), Jabalpur, appears for the Board. Shri P.K. Saxena, Addl.S.E.(commercial) O/o CMD (CZ), Bhopal, Shri J.L.Garg, S.E.O/o CMD (WZ), Indore and Shri A.K. Khare Addl. S.E.O/o CMD(E Z), Jabalpur appear for the Distribution Companies.

2. On review of the status of stopped/defective meters from the revenue return format R-15 of the Board, Commission had observed that the figures of percentage stopped/defective meters is above the level of 3% and the same goes as high as 21.31% in the domestic category and 29.57% in water works in respect of M. P. Poorva Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Co. Ltd., Jabalpur. Similar position has been observed in case of other companies also. Commission felt that the figures are obviously not in line with earlier reported figures and are too high. Commission took a note of the figures reported by the Discoms in the format D-4 also which was submitted recently for the percentage of defective LT meters in respect of Jabalpur, Rewa and Ujjain Region for the period 2003-04. In this format the percentage failure is being reported as below 3%. Because of the discrepancy, a Suo Motu Petition was registered for conducting a hearing to get to the bottom of the matter and to know the realistic situation prevailing in the Distribution Companies of MPSEB.

3. During the course of hearing today, Commission was informed by the Engineers from the utility that the figures of failure reported in R-15 revenue return are not correct. When enquired from the representative of the Board about the reason for not providing correct information about stopped/defective meters in their regular revenue return R-15, the Board's representative submitted that the difference is due to the following reasons:-

- i) There are cases where consumer's meter reading shows inconsistent consumption due to change of meter or it is not possible to be read due to locked premises or there is any kind of penal units billed or there is any assessment on any account added in the bill as per consumer's sanctioned load during checking of meter reading diaries by the Officers of the Board. Such cases of assessed units are reported as stopped/defective meters by the billing software which leads to an increase in the number of stopped/defective meters in monthly revenue return statement i.e R-15. Therefore, the billing software needs some modification.
- ii) In some cases of different categories of consumers where the connections are lying temporarily disconnected and no advancement in reading appears in the reading column ,all such connections are treated as having stopped/defective meters by the billing software and subsequently appear as stopped/defective meters in R-15 statement.

4. Commission directs the Board that the data given in the R-15 should be realistic and the Board should make necessary modification in the billing software to ensure insertion of correct figures of the stopped/defective meters in the said statement. The details about number of meters for which assessment of consumption has been done should also be possible to be made known separately. Commission further directs the Board to ensure timely replacement of stopped/defective meters as per stipulations made in MPERC Supply code 2004 and Regulation for Distribution Performance Standards 2004 . The Board should make appropriate modifications in its Billing software and implement the same immediately so that all R-15 statements for the month of November 04 and onwards show correct and realistic figures of stopped/defective meters. With the above directives, Commission decides to close the case. However, if the R-15 of November 2004 and onwards do not get corrected, the Commission will be forced to take action as per the provision of Electricity Act, 2003.

Ordered accordingly.

Sd/-(D.Roybardhan) Member (Engg.) Sd/-(P.K.Mehrotra) Chairman

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