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No. CE(Dist.)/ D-III/ Ag. /DDF /

No 30175

Date:

21 DEC 2018

Circular

Subject : Extending the facility of DDF for releasing Agricultural connections on HVDS and for conversion of existing Ag connection from LVDS to HVDS.

- Reference:** 1) T.O. Circular No. CE(Dist)/D-III/Non DDF Stoppage/09245 Dtd 23.04.18.
2) T.O Circular No. CE(dist)/D-III/NSC/10992 Dated 15.05.2018.
3)T.O. Circular No. CE(Dist)/D-III/Non DDF Stoppage/14747 Dtd 15.06.18.
4) G.R No. U Vi Pra -2018/ Pra Kra-30/ Energy-5 Dated 05.05.2018.
5) MERC Order in Case No. 346 of 2018 Dtd. 18.12.2018.

The Government of Maharashtra has approved HVDS scheme for electrification of Ag. Pumps vide GR under ref. (4). According to it, all paid pending agriculture connections as on 31.03.2018 & those coming in future shall be released on HVDS system only.

As per prevailing practice, MSEDCL is releasing power supply to Ag. Pumps through the funds provided by Government of Maharashtra (GoM) under various schemes like DPDC/ SCP/ Special Packages for Vidarbha & Marathwada, etc. The connections are given after payment of service connections charges (SCC) by the farmers as per approved by MERC. Further connections are also released bypassing the chronology (paid-pending) under DDF scheme, where the consumer voluntarily bears the entire amount of the estimated cost of infrastructure required, on non-refundable basis.

The provision of releasing Ag. Pump connections under DDF was withdrawn by MSEDCL vide circulars under ref. (1), (2) & (3). However, various Ag consumers, public representatives, etc are approaching our field offices and are demanding release of power supply by voluntarily paying the entire expenditure under DDF.

In view of above, the petition was filed by MSEDCL on date 28/11/2018 (Case No 346 of 2018) before Hon'ble MERC for removal of difficulties in interpretation of 'Dedicated Distribution Facilities' and its implementation for Agricultural connections.

The Commission in exercise of its jurisdiction under Regulations 24 'Power to Remove Difficulties' of the MERC (Electricity Supply Code and Other Conditions of

Supply Regulations, 2005 hereby issued following order with respect to tapping of HT line under DDF scheme for agriculture consumers.

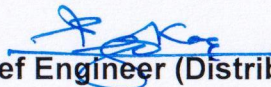
- a) *Only for cases for releasing new connections for Ag purpose through HVDS or conversion of existing LVDS to HVDS, tapping of HT line is allowed under Dedicated Distribution Facility.*
- b) *Existing provisions relating to DDF are sufficient as regards the prayer for treating DDF investment as non refundable by MSEDCL. Expenses towards DDF facility are refundable only at the time of permanent disconnection of consumer and that too at depreciated value of the asset.*

The above order shall be implemented by the field offices with immediate effect. The following important points must be followed during extending the facility of DDF for releasing Agricultural connections on HVDS and for conversion of existing Ag connection from LVDS to HVDS:-

- i) All new as well as existing Ag. consumers who opt the facility of DDF in HVDS must be tagged on New Connection Portal. The firm quotation of 1.3% supervision charges of these consumers must be generated only after tagging with IT.
- ii) All new as well as existing Ag. connections under DDF on HVDS must be released online.

The above circular shall be implemented by the field officers with immediate effect.

The above circular is available on company website www.mahadiscom.in.


Chief Engineer (Distribution)

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