

**JHARKHAND STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
RANCHI**

Suo-Motu Case No. **12** of **2011**

Shri **Mukhtiar Singh**, Chairperson
Shri **T. Munikrishnaiah**, Member

Dated: **20th August 2011**

ORDER

Counsel as Amicus Curie : None

Counsel for the Commission : Shri Sudarshan Shrivastava, Advocate

For the JSEB : Shri S.C. Mishra, Chief Engineer(C&R),JSEB
Shri M.C. Karan, GM (RAPDRP), JSEB
Shri Gaya Shukla, CE (Transmission), JSEB

For the State Government : None.

1. A news item had appeared on 11.8.2011 in “Hindustan”, a daily Hindi newspaper, stating therein that M/s HCL Infosystem Limited has withdrawn from IT system project of the licensee-JSEB. The Commission immediately took up the matter with the licensee-JSEB. The licensee-JSEB has stated that the aforesaid news item is not true. It has been clarified on behalf of the licensee-JSEB that M/s HCL Infosystem Limited has not withdrawn from the project. There seems to be some hitch in the payment of advance which M/s HCL Infosystem Limited is asking for. It has also been stated that the matter is handled by the highest authority of the Board, on priority. With this information the licensee-JSEB has also filed a letter of M/s HCL Infosystem Limited addressed to the General Manager, R-APDRP of the JSEB which shows that the said Company has not withdrawn from the project but that Company has also raised the issue of non-payment of mobilization advance pending since last four months and has also disclosed that this act of the licensee-JSEB is badly affecting the progress of the project. From the letter of M/s HCL Infosystem

Limited and the information given by the licensee-JSEB, it seems that there is some substance in the aforesaid news item. M/s HCL Infosystem Limited may not have withdrawn from the project but as per M/s HCL Infosystem Limited the progress of the work is badly affected since last four months because of non-release of mobilization advance. The Commission has already in its order dated 16.7.2011 highlighted the importance of the project and has directed the licensee-JSEB to monitor it from time to time and remove the bottlenecks in time. The licensee-JSEB is again directed to sort the issue out at hand at the earliest and ensure that the time-lines are adhered to.

2. Needless to say that the money for the project falls in Part-A of the R-APDRP of XI Plan. The Government of India will be giving 100% Loan which, on completion of the project, will be converted into a Grant. It means, if the licensee-JSEB completes the project within the time frame, the entire cost of the project will be borne by the Government of India. Otherwise, it will become a liability of the licensee-JSEB. In this background, it is more important and urgent as well that the licensee-JSEB monitors the programme on weekly basis and remove the bottlenecks, if any, in time. The Commission would like to know the progress on this issue on the next date of hearing.

3. On the maintenance of Distribution and Transmission network, the Commission in its order dated 16.7.2011 has virtually worked out a check-list for field functionaries. In response to that, the licensee-JSEB has filed a maintenance programme of various circles starting from 11.8.2011. The information as submitted by the licensee-JSEB speaks about the maintenance of 33/11 KV Power Sub-Station (P/S/S) maintenance of 33 KV line, maintenance of 11 KV line and maintenance of L.T. Distribution line. These may be broad-heads for maintenance of distribution system. But the concerned officials should follow

the check-list worked out by the Commission and submit the quarterly report. The General Manager and the Member (Distribution) of the licensee-JSEB should also review the maintenance work done at the regular intervals. The Commission also feels that random cross-check of the maintenance work done will go a long way in ensuring the quality of the work done.

4. The Commission wanted to understand the area wise supply position of electricity. The Commission is well aware that there are frequent trippings but the licensee-JSEB has never given the information in this behalf. The Commission has worked out a format, a copy of which was handed over to the Nodal Officer, Shri S.C. Mishra, Chief Engineer (C&R), JSEB for collection of information and submitting the same to the Commission quarterly. The first report should be submitted on the next date of hearing. Thereafter it should be submitted quarterly.

5. Regarding the Distribution and Transmission network of Palamau areas, the Commission is informed that Stage-I Forest clearance from the Ministry of Forest and Environment have been received and because of the increase in the minimum wages, the cost of the project is being revised and will be submitted to the Forest Department, Government of Jharkhand for onward transmission to the Ministry of Forest & Environment, Government of India. It is not clear what action has been taken by the JSEB after receipt of Stage-I clearance and how much time will be taken for obtaining the Stage-II clearance. The Commission feels that this project has to be accorded highest priority and has to be pursued at every stage with total commitment. The licensee-JSEB should keep it in mind that the people of Palamau are not getting continuous and quality power because of the Transmission network constraints. The licensee-JSEB is duty bound under the law to supply continuous and quality power to all

the regions of the State. In this background the Commission again directs the licensee-JSEB to take the project on priority basis and work out the time-lines for the completion. Same is the case of Santhal Paragana's Transmission and Distribution network. The Commission is informed that the licensee-JSEB is feeling difficulty in execution of the works because some of the facilities belong to ECL. It has also been disclosed that negotiations with the ECL are going on to get their permission. It is not disclosed since when the negotiations are going on and how long it will take. It seems the concerned officers are very casual in their approach. If negotiations at their level are not bearing fruits, they should raise this issue at the Chief Secretary level through Secretary, Energy Department to sort out the issue immediately. The licensee-JSEB and the Department of Energy should apprise the Commission about the progress made on this aspect by the next date.

6. Needless to say that the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojna (RGGVY) is under implementation in Palamau and Santhal Paragana areas as well. If the Distribution network is not there and the adequate power is not available, the entire programme of rural electrification will go hay-way. So it is more important, in the interest of RGGVY and also in the interest of the entire area to ensure that the Distribution and Transmission network of Santhal Paragana and Palamau are completed at the earliest.

7. The information given by the licensee-JSEB shows that they have worked out 11 schemes under BRGF of Rs.574.72 crores with the completion time from 12-18 months. It is not disclosed when these projects are going to start. The Commission feels that it is necessary to work out the time-line for every scheme and adhere thereto. The Commission may be informed about the time-line of these schemes on the next date of hearing.

8. Regarding the pending dues with the Government department, the licensee-JSEB informs that Rs.496.45 crores is outstanding arrears with the various Government departments. During the course of public hearings, the Commission and the officials of the licensee-JSEB faced embarrassing questions from the consumers, in general, that the electric connection of an ordinary consumer is disconnected by the licensee-JSEB on the slightest pretext whereas the Government departments are enjoying the supply of electricity despite pending dues amounting to crores. Not only that the licensee-JSEB's precious revenue is blocked, it does not give a good image of the concerned Departments as well. The Commission feels that the Secretary, Energy Department should get this aspect reviewed at the level of the Chief Secretary so that the concerned departments may be directed to pay the outstanding dues. The licensee-JSEB, on its part, should ensure that the bills of the outstanding dues are sent to the concerned Departments and pursue the matter with these Departments as well as with the Energy Department. The Commission is aware that there are pending dues with the private consumers as well. The licensee-JSEB is directed to give updated information on that count as well. Pursue the court cases wherever they are pending and the dues which are not involved in litigation, must be realized forthwith.

9. This proceeding is going on since 9.2.2011 and almost 9 (nine) hearings have taken place so far. A perusal of the orders passed so far will indicate that the concerned officers of the licensee-JSEB do not furnish the required information, in time, nor they come prepared to answer various queries raised during the course of hearing. The Commission feels that the concerned officers are casual in their approach. The Commission brings it to the notice of the Chairman, JSEB and expects that suitable instructions are issued to the

concerned officers not only to furnish the full and complete information, in time, but come fully prepared; otherwise the Commission will be constrained to take action against such officials under law.

Post this case on **24.09.2011** at **11.30 AM** for further hearing.

Sd/-
(T. Munikrishnaiah)
Member

Sd/-
(Mukhtiar Singh)
Chairperson