

**IN THE JHARKHAND STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY
COMMISSION AT RANCHI**

Case No. 07 of 2026

M/s Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. Petitioner

Versus

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited (JBVNL) **Respondent No.1**

The General Manager (Commercial/Revenue), JBVNL, **Respondent No.2**

The General Manager Cum-Chief Engineer, Electric Supply Area, Dhanbad,
JBVNL,**Respondent No.3**

The Electrical Superintending Engineer, Electric Supply Circle, Dhanbad,
JBVNL,..... **Respondent No. 4**

Jharia Rehabilitation and development Authority through its Managing
Director, JBVNL.....**Respondent No. 5**

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NAVNEET KUMAR, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD, MEMBER (LAW)**

For the Petitioner : Mr. Manish Kumar and Mrs. Pratibha
Mahto Advocate

For the Respondent : Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Advocate

ORDER

Date – 1st October, 2026

1. Ms Bharat Coking Coal has filed this Petition under Section 86(1)(e) read with Section 181 of Electricity Act, 2003 for relaxation of the connectivity level prescribed for connected load/contract demand of the consumer/petitioner for Belgaria Township Phase-I, falling in the category of above 1 MW and up to 2 MW as introduced vide amendment in Clause 8.2 of the Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Rooftop Solar PV Grid- Interactive Systems and Net/Gross Metering) Regulations, 2015 by the Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory

Commission (Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems and Net/Gross Metering) (1st Amendment), 2019.

2. The Prayers of the Petitioner are as under: -

- (a) For relaxing Clause 8.2 of the JSERC (Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems and Net/Gross Metering) Regulations, 2015 as amended on 26.02.2019, to the limited extent of permitting injection of 1.882 MWp rooftop solar power installed at Belgaria Township Phase-I at the existing 11 kV voltage level.
- (b) For permitting net metering arrangement for the aforesaid capacity pending development and commissioning of 33 kV infrastructure.

Submissions of the Petitioner

- 3. M/s. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. ('BCCL' in short) is a Government Company within the meaning of Section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956 and an Undertaking of the Ministry of Coal, Government of India. It is also a subsidiary company of Coal India Ltd and the Petitioner is in the process of implementing a Solar Power program with the objective of minimizing the Carbon footprint caused due to Mining activities and to progress towards the goal of achieving Net Zero carbon emission.
- 4. Considering the above target, the CSR Department of the Petitioner identified different buildings with total rooftop area of 18826 sq. mtr. including 196 blocks of Phase- I and other community buildings in Belgaria Township of Respondent No. 5 for installation of aggregate 1.882 MWp Rooftop On-grid or Grid connected Solar Power Plants.
- 5. The Scheme for the work of "Complete Design, Engineering, Supply, Civil Work, Erection, Testing & Commissioning and ensuring net metering as per the concerned State/UT Policies of a total estimated 1.882 MWp Grid connected Solar Rooftop PV Project at Belgaria Township of BCCL including Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of the Project for a period of 5 years" was placed before in the 38th Financial Directors' Meeting of 2024 held on 08 and 09.10.2024 and agreed upon by the CFDs with an estimated project cost of Rs. 10,15,31,795.00. In this connection a no Objection was sought from Respondent No. 5 and the same was granted by the Deputy Commissioner-cum- Managing Director of Jharia Rehabilitation & Development Authority.
- 6. Pursuant thereto, a Notice Inviting Tender bearing Ref. No. BCCL/GM(ENM)/F-Solar/24- 25/59 dated 14.12.2024 was floated and a

Work Order for the work of "Complete Design, Engineering, Supply, Civil Work, Erection, Testing & Commissioning and ensuring net metering as per concerned State/UT policies of a cumulative total estimated 1.882 MWp capacity Grid connected Solar Rooftop PV Project at Belgaria Township of BCCL-including Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of the Project for a period of 5 years" contained in Letter bearing No. BCCL/General Manager (E&M) / F-Tender / 2025 / 1813-14(H) dated 01.03.2025 was issued in favour of M/s Zenith-Elina Energy.

7. The Clause 2 in the Work Order provided that the work be completed within 180 days from the date of commencement of the work. Further, that the date of commencement of work shall be reckoned from 10th day of issue of Letter of Acceptance or 7 (Seven) days after handing over the site of work.
8. Upon completion of the work the Petitioner addressed a Letter dated 09.07.2025 to Respondent No. 2 informing him that the Petitioner has established 1.882 MWp Roof Top Solar Plant in Belgaria Township and it is further being planned to establish further solar power plant of 5-6 MWp capacity of roof top solar plant of different building at Belgaria Township. Accordingly, a request was made that arrangements be made for technical and commercial feasibility of solar energy/ evacuation into JBVNL grid at 11 kV line available near Belgaria Township Substation.
9. The petitioner submitted that upon finding no response, the Petitioner sent a Reminder to Respondent No. 2 contained in Letter dated 17.07.2025, 25.07.2025 and 04.08.2025.
10. In this connection JRDA (Consumer No. MK1557) applied for net metering of installed roof top solar of 1.882 MWp before JBVNL. Pursuant to the application so received, Respondent No. 4 submitted a letter bearing Memo No. 2547 dated 13.11.2025 before the Respondent No. 3 apprising him about the situation.
11. In reply to the aforesaid Letter dated 13.11.2025, the Respondent No. 3 forwarded Letter dated 25.11.2025 informing that a letter has been received from your office regarding the Net Metering agreement for the 1.882 MWp rooftop solar installation of M/s JRDA at Belgaria Township informing that as per the Net/Gross Metering -Regulations of JSERC (1st Amendment), dated 26th February 2019, Clause No. 8.2, the connectivity level of rooftop PV solar systems above 1 MW and up to 2 MW shall be at the 3-phase 22 kV or 33 kV level only and accordingly, it would be appropriate for the consumer to obtain approval from JSERC.

12. At Belgaria Township, presently only 11 kV infrastructure is available. As evident from the Letter written by Respondent No. 4 (Electrical Superintending Engineer, Electric Supply Circle, Dhanbad) a 33/11 kV Power Substation is proposed and scheduled for development in near future. However, in the meantime, the power generated from the Solar Power Plant is not being utilised.
13. The project in question is a rooftop solar PV installation aggregating 1.882 MWp, undertaken in furtherance of national renewable energy objectives, and any regulatory interpretation that renders such commissioned renewable capacity non-operational would be contrary to the statutory mandate.
14. The Petitioner has incurred an expenditure of approximately Rs. 10.15 Crores for installation of the rooftop solar plant and the said plant is technically complete and ready for injection.

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT- JHARKHAND BIJLI
VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED**

15. The respondent submitted that on 07.07.2026 this Hon'ble Commission directed the respondents to file counter affidavit.
16. It is submitted that Superintending Engineer, Electric Supply Circle, Dhanbad had issued a letter vide letter dated 13.11.2025 mentioning the ground facts.
17. It is submitted that as per JSERC Net/ gross metering Regulations (1st amendment) dated 26.02.2019, clause 8.2 the connectivity level of roof top PV solar system above 1MW and upto 2MW shall be at the 3 phase 22KV or 33 KV level only and therefore approval is required from JSERC.
18. The respondent submitted that the prayers made by the petitioner are liable to be rejected and accordingly the petition should also be rejected.

Commission's Observation and findings

19. The Commission has taken into consideration all the averments and submissions made by the parties and perused the materials available on records and has come to the following observations:
20. The present petition has been considered in the context of the State's renewable-energy objectives, the statutory mandate to promote generation of electricity from renewable sources, and the necessity of ensuring effective utilisation of the rooftop solar plant established at Belgaria Township.
21. It is noted that the existing electrical infrastructure at Belgaria Township

presently provides only an 11 kV voltage. A 33/11 kV power substation has been proposed and is expected to be developed in due course. Consequently, the Petitioner’s commissioned solar capacity is presently not being utilised solely because of the non-availability of the prescribed higher-voltage connectivity infrastructure. The Commission is of the view that the requirement regarding voltage level is intended to ensure grid safety, operational reliability, protection coordination, metering accuracy and proper management of power flow. The said requirement cannot, however, be applied in a manner that defeats the legitimate object of promoting renewable energy, particularly where the project has already been commissioned and the distribution licensee’s own network expansion is proposed and also that permitting the plant to remain idle would result in avoidable wastage of renewable-generation capacity and would be inconsistent with the statutory obligation to promote renewable energy and facilitate grid-connected renewable generation.

22. It is pertinent to mention here that clause 8.2 of JSERC (Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive System and Net/Gross Metering), 2015 was amended by the JSERC (Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive System and Net/Gross Metering) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2024, on 16.12.2024, whereby Clause 8.2 was deleted and replaced as follows:

“2. Amendment to Clause 8.2

The above clause of the principal Regulations is deleted and replaced as follows:

The voltage level at which the rooftop solar PV system installed at premises of the consumer shall be connected with the distribution system according to clause 4.3 of JSERC (Electricity supply code) Regulations, 2015 and amendments thereof.”

Clause 4.3 of the JSERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2015 states as under:

“4.3 Supply shall generally be given at the following voltages on the basis of contracted load:

Category		system of supply
<i>Low Tension</i>		
<i>All installations (other than irrigation pumping and agricultural services) with a contracted load upto 5 kW</i>		<i>Single phase at 230 V</i>
<i>Irrigation pumping and agricultural services and all installations with a contracted load of more than 5 kW and up to 85 kW/ 100 kVA</i>		<i>3 Phase, 4 wire at 400 V</i>
<i>High Tension</i>		

<i>Contracted load exceeding 100 kVA1 and up to 1500 kVA</i>	<i>3 Phase at 6.6 kV / 11 kV / 22 kV</i>	
<i>Contracted load exceeding 1500 kVA2 and up to 10000 kVA</i>	<i>3 Phase at 22 kV/ 33 kV</i>	
<i>Contracted load exceeding 10000 kVA and up to 20000 kVA</i>	<i>3 Phase at 33 kV</i>	
<i>Extra High Tension</i>		
<i>Contracted load exceeding 20000 kVA</i>	<i>3 Phase at 66 kV/ 110 kV/ 132 kV/ 220 kV</i>	

23. Thus, the Commission is of the considered view that the stand of the petitioner falls under Clause 4.3 of the Electricity Supply Code, 2015, after the aforesaid amendment and the relief thus sought is inherently covered and falls under the said provisions of the Electricity Supply Code, 2015.

24. Thus, the Commission considers it appropriate to allow the connectivity of the 1.882 MWp rooftop solar photovoltaic project with the available 11 kV network as per the amended regulation dated 16th December 2024 i.e. under clause 4.3 of the JSERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2015 subject to compliance with all applicable technical, safety, protection, metering and operational requirements.

25. Further, the distribution licensee is directed to process and execute the net-metering agreement for the said project after completion of the technical feasibility study and compliance with the prescribed conditions.

26. The Petitioner and the distribution licensee shall cooperate in completing the required technical, metering, protection and statutory formalities expeditiously.

ORDER

27. Accordingly, in exercise of the powers conferred under the Electricity Act, 2003, the applicable provisions of the JSERC Regulations, the Commission hereby has allowed the prayer of the Petitioner for permitting injection of 1.882 MWp rooftop solar power installed at Belgaria Township Phase-I at the existing 11 kV voltage level and also permits net metering arrangement for the aforesaid capacity subject to compliance with all applicable technical, safety, protection, metering and operational requirements as per the Electricity Act, 2003.

28. Accordingly, with the aforesaid observations and findings the instant petition stands disposed off.

Sd/-
Member (L)

Sd/-
Chairperson