IN THE JHARKHAND STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION AT RANCHI

Case No. 12 of 2026

M/s Usha Martin University .....…….…….…… Petitioner

Versus

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited & Ors. (Distribution licensee) …… …Respondents

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

For the Petitioner : Mr. Navin Kumar, Advocate
For the Respondent : Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Standing Counsel, JBVNL

ORDER

Date – 28th October, 2026

1. The instant petition has been filed by the Petitioner – Usha Martin University, under clause 4.7 of the JSERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2015 seeking necessary approval of the Commission to allow the petitioner to avail power supply at supply voltage of 33 kV on its proposed enhanced contract load of 500 kVA under H.T.S. category from Respondent - JBVNL.

2. The Prayers of the Petitioner are as under: -
   (a) That the present Application has been preferred under Clause 4.7 of the JSERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2015 seeking approval of the Hon'ble Commission to permit the Applicant to avail electricity supply at the 33 kV voltage level against its proposed enhanced Contract Demand of 500 kVA, in place of the existing Contract Demand of 200 kVA under the High Tension Service (H.T.S.) category from JBVNL. The said request, however, came to be rejected by Respondent No. 4 vide Letter No. 96 dated 19.03.2026, purportedly on the ground of the provisions contained in Clause 4.3 of the JSERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2015.
   (b) For grant of any appropriate other relief or reliefs deem fit in the facts and circumstances of the instant case.

The factual background of the case, as emerging from the pleadings, submissions and materials placed on record by the parties, is set out hereunder:

Submissions on behalf of the Petitioner

3. The Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner University is imparting education to the young students of Jharkhand particularly to the Students residing nearby and is also very much beneficial for local community by & large and which in turn is generating

manifold employment in directly and which will lead to overall economic development of Rural Areas and in absence of Quality Power connection, the Petitioner University will be unable to function properly and which will result into quality education to the students in proper environment.

4. Petitioner submitted that the Petitioner University is located in a remote area of Ranchi district and supply of electricity is very much irregular and there is absence of quality power in the locality and because of the said reasons students are facing problems in pursuing their education in the university campus which is resulting in loss of time and money.

5. Petitioner submitted that considering the aforementioned difficulties being faced by the Petitioner University, the Management of the University decided to avail Electric Supply at Voltage of 33 KV from JBVNL and accordingly an application was submitted in the office of the JBVNL with all relevant documents on 24.02.2026 by the Registrar of the Usha Martin University namely Dr. S.P. Verma.

6. Petitioner submitted that after submission of application dated 25.02.2026 in the office of the Respondent JBVNL for grant of Supply of Electricity at Power Voltage of 33 kV on the enhanced contract demand of 500 kVA, the respondent no. 4 i.e. the Assistant Electrical Engineer, Electric Supply sub- division, Tatisilwai, Ranchi, vide his Letter no. 96 dated 19.03.2026 informed the Petitioner University that as per Supply Code Regulation, 2015 and its relevant provision under clause 4.3, Power Supply 33 kV can only be given for contract Load exceeding 1500 kVA and upto 10000 kVA whereas the Petitioner's contract load will increase upto 500 kVA only therefore his application has been rejected.

7. That, the petitioner submitted that the petitioner University is running one girls hostel by accommodating 320 girls and one boys hostel accommodating 361 boys and have total no. of 78 Laboratories in 15 departments with highly sophisticated laboratory equipment and poor power quality is affecting overall safety of the students residing in hostels and laboratory equipments are not working properly.

8. That, the petitioner submitted that the petitioner University will day by day increase its academic activities and after sometime the contract demand will certainly increase in 1 or 2 years upto 1500 kVA or more.

9. That , the petitioner submitted that the site of the petitioner University is located in the village area Ranchi District having problems of regular quality Electric supply and since the work of the petitioner University is highly specialized and technical therefore the University needs uninterrupted power for doing academic work among students and power interruption is causing great hardship to the students and management of the University.

10. Petitioner submitted that the petitioner University is aware of the fact that 33 kV line of JBVNL is crossing near to the gate of the petitioner University and therefore no extra capital

investment requires to be made by JBVNL and if the Commission will direct so then the petitioner University is ready to bear the installation cost for providing power under 33 kV.

11. Petitioner further submitted that the petitioner University undertakes before the Commission to the effect that it shall not claim Higher Voltage rebate from the respondent JBVNL.

12. Petitioner also submitted that the technical condition of the respondent JBVNL is perfectly alright to allow supply voltage of 33 kV to the petitioner University for contract demand of 500 kVA.

13. Petitioner submitted that the there is no other adequate, alternative and efficacious remedy available and the relief as prayed for, if granted, will afford complete and adequate relief.

Replies of the Respondent

14. Learned Counsel for the Respondent- JBVNL submitted that as per Clause 4.3 of the Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2015, the minimum contract demand for availing power supply at 33 kV voltage is required to exceed 1500 kVA. The petitioner had applied for enhancement of load from 200 kVA to 500 kVA at 33 kV supply voltage on 25.02.2026 vide Receipt No. JS1130. In compliance with Clause 4.3 of the said Regulations, the application was rejected by the Assistant Electrical Engineer, Electric Supply Sub- Division, Tatisilwai, and the petitioner was duly informed vide Letter No. 96 dated 19.03.2026.

15. Respondent submitted that the petitioner University presently holds an electricity connection with a contract demand of 200 kVA at 11 kV supply voltage under the HTS tariff category.

16. That, the respondent further submitted that the petitioner University is situated in a remote area of Angara Block, District Ranchi. Electricity is being supplied through the 11 kV Gondlipokhar Feeder emanating from Angara Power Sub-Station. The total length of the feeder is approximately 60-65 kilometres, including the trunk line of approximately 25 kilometres and several branch lines. The transmission line passes through dense forest areas and regions prone to thunderstorms. During heavy rainfall and pre-monsoon storms, frequent breakdowns occur in both the 33 kV and 11 kV feeders, resulting in repeated interruptions in power supply to the University.

17. Respondent submitted that JBVNL has made all possible efforts to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the petitioner. However, dense forest cover and other natural calamities frequently cause breakdowns of the 11 kV feeder. Supply at 33 kV voltage is likely to be substantially more reliable than supply at 11 KV voltage.

18. The Respondent submitted that the Petitioner itself had indicated that its Contract Demand was likely to be enhanced up to 1500 kVA within the next one to two years. In view of the said projected increase in demand, the Respondent contended that the Petitioner may submit

an appropriate application seeking enhancement of Contract Demand beyond 1500 kVA**,** along with supply at the 33 kV voltage level, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the JSERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2015.

19. Respondent submitted that the existing 33 kV Silli Feeder passes at a distance of approximately 500 metres from the main gate of the petitioner's University.

20. Respondent submitted that in the event Petitioner is permitted to avail supply at 33 kV voltage despite having a contract demand lower than the prescribed limit, it may not be granted any voltage rebate or such other rebates as this Hon'ble Commission may deem fit.

21. Respondent submitted that power supply to the petitioner may be provided at 33 kV voltage either:
    (a) Through a dedicated feeder from the 33/11 KV Sub-Station, Angara
    (b) By tapping from the existing 33 KV Silli Feeder.
    It is further stated that technical feasibility of providing such supply has been examined by a competent committee, and the entire cost of the required installation shall be borne by the petitioner.

Commission's Observation and findings

22. The Commission has carefully examined the submissions made by the Petitioner and the Respondent, the documents available on record and the relevant provisions of the JSERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2015.

23. The principal issue that falls for consideration before the Commission is whether, in the facts and circumstances of the present case, the Petitioner is entitled to be permitted to avail electricity supply at the 33 kV voltage level notwithstanding that its proposed Contract Demand is 500 kVA**,** which is below the minimum Contract Demand prescribed for supply at the said voltage level under Clause 4.3 of the JSERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2015.The relevant clause of the Regulations is as under:

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

Category	***System of Supply***
Low Tension	
All installations (other than irrigation pumping and agricultural services) with a contracted load upto 5 kW	*Single phase at 230 V*
Irrigation pumping and agricultural services and all installations with a contracted load of more than 5 kW and up to 85 kW/100 kVA	*3 Phase, 4 wire at 400 V*
High Tension	
Contracted load exceeding 100 kVA and up to 1500 kVA	*3 Phase at 6.6 kV / 11 kV / 22 kV*
Contracted load exceeding 1500 kVA up to 10000 kVA	*3 Phase at 22 kV/ 33 kV*
Contracted load exceeding 10000 kVA and up to 20,000	*3 Phase at 33 kV*
Extra High Tension	
Contracted load exceeding 20,000 kVA	*3 Phase at 66 kV/ 110 kV/ 132 kV/ 220 kV*

"

24. However, clause 4.7 of the JSERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulation, 2015 provides as under:

"4.7 *The Distribution Licensee may, depending upon the technical conditions of the distribution system, give supply at a voltage and phase other than the classification of supply in clauses 4.3 of these Regulations, subject to the Commission's approval.* "

25. The Commission observes that the Petitioner is an educational institution engaged in imparting higher education and operating hostel facilities, laboratories and other allied infrastructure, all of which necessitate an uninterrupted, stable and quality power supply. It has been contended by the Petitioner that the existing electricity supply is beset with frequent interruptions and voltage fluctuations, which have been adversely impacting the conduct of academic activities as well as the efficient functioning of laboratory equipment and other essential institutional facilities.
26. The Commission further notes that the Respondent has acknowledged that the Petitioner's premises is presently being supplied through a long 11 kV feeder traversing forest and storm-prone areas and that supply at 33 kV voltage is likely to be substantially more reliable than supply at 11 kV voltage. The Respondent has also confirmed the technical feasibility of providing supply at 33 kV voltage either through a dedicated feeder or by tapping the existing 33 kV Silli Feeder.

27. The Commission also takes note of the submission of the Petitioner that it is willing to bear the entire cost associated with creation of the necessary infrastructure and shall not claim any higher voltage rebate. The Respondent has likewise submitted that the entire cost of the required installation shall be borne by the Petitioner.

28. In view of the foregoing facts and circumstances, and considering the powers vested in the Commission under Clause 4.7 of the JSERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2015, the Commission finds merit in the request of the Petitioner and considers it appropriate to permit availing of supply at 33 kV voltage level for the proposed contract demand of 500 kVA, subject to the conditions specified hereinbelow.

ORDER

29. In light of the foregoing discussion, observations and findings, and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under Clause 4.7 of the JSERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2015, the Commission hereby accords approval to the Petitioner to avail electricity supply at the 33 kV voltage level against its proposed Contract Demand of 500 kVA, notwithstanding the minimum Contract Demand prescribed for the said voltage level under Clause 4.3 of the aforesaid Regulations. The said approval is granted in the peculiar facts and circumstances of the present case and shall remain subject to compliance with the following conditions:

(a) The entire cost associated with development, augmentation, extension and installation of the infrastructure required for providing supply at 33 kV voltage level shall be borne by the

Petitioner in accordance with the applicable Regulations, Orders and Procedures.

(b) The Petitioner shall not be entitled to claim any higher voltage rebate or any other rebate, concession or financial benefit solely on account of supply being availed at 33 kV voltage pursuant to this approval.

(c) The Respondent shall finalize the technical scheme and mode of connectivity, whether through a dedicated feeder or through tapping of the existing 33 kV feeder, strictly on the basis of technical feasibility, system safety and grid reliability.

(d) That all the safety and protection measures must be taken care of by both the parties, while implementation of the above. The Respondent will allow H.T. connection service to the petitioner at supply voltage of 33 kV with a contract demand of 500 KVA after ensuring proper arrangement of metering, billing and network system protection.

(e) The Petitioner shall comply with all technical, commercial and statutory requirements prescribed by the Respondent and under the applicable Regulations.

30. The Respondent is hereby directed to process the Petitioner's application and take necessary action for providing supply at 33 kV voltage level in accordance with this Order and the applicable provisions of the Supply Code.

With the above observations and directions, the Petition is hereby allowed and stands disposed of.

Sd/-	Sd/-
Member (L)	Chairperson