

**JHARKHAND STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
RANCHI**

CORAM

S.K.F. KUJUR, Chairman

(Smt) S. SINHA, Member (Legal)

IN THE MATTER OF

Issuance of Additional Security Bills to the Consumers.

ORDER

(7.2.2006)

Jharkhand State Electricity Board (JSEB) had issued bills for Additional Security deposit from the consumers. Seeing this as a news item in the local newspaper we sought clarification from the Board as to authority under which the said Additional Security deposits were being collected. The Board have clarified through its letter dated 02.02.'06 that the Board had issued the bills as per the Tariff Order issued by JSERC 2003-04, tariff order of 1993 and para 10.4 of JSERC (Supply Code) 2005 and may be permitted to collect Additional Security deposit.

It is seen from the Tariff Order 2003-04, page 148, para 1.4 of the Terms and Conditions of Supply which states, "All other Terms and Conditions in respect of Meter Rent, Supply at Lower Voltage, Capacitor Charge, Circuit-Breaker Charge, Electricity Duty, rebate, security deposit, surcharge for exceeding contract demand etc shall remain the same as existing in the state.." The terms and condition of supply, which was prevailing at the time, was as per the tariff order of 1993.

But in August 2005, JSERC (Supply Code) 2005 was notified which came into force with effect from 28.11.05 and all the terms and condition of supply was brought under the said Code.

None of these Order/Regulations mentioned Additional Security deposit.

The Tariff Order 2003-04 was issued by JSERC for the year 2003-04 there after the Board have neither filed any revision petition despite repeated

reminders by the Commission nor applied for the extension of the said tariff order.

The Supply Code notified by the Commission, lays down all the terms and condition of supply. One of the conditions (Chapter 10) lays down the revision of Security Deposits by the consumers. But there are several other conditions (Chapter 19) as well, as notifying the consumers about the (a) Consumer grievance Redressal Forum (rules and procedure) (b) Schedule of Tariff (c) Standard of Performance for the Distribution Licensee etc.

It is seen that the Board has not followed these conditions mentioned above but followed only one of them.

Thus it is concluded that the request of the Board to permit it to collect the Additional Security Deposit from the consumers as per the Tariff Order 2003-04, Tariff Order 1993 and the Supply Code, cannot be approved by the Commission, as there is no such provision for it.

Secondly the Board has not fulfilled the laid down conditions of the Supply Code and also the fact that the Board has been allowed to function as a licensee only upto 9th of March 2006, the request of the Board for recalculation of security deposit cannot be agreed to. Board should include it in its Tariff revision petition with method of recalculation.

Sd/-S.Sinha
7.2.2006
Member (Legal)

Sd/- S.K.F. Kujur
7.2.2006
Chairman