

Letter no. 1387/ACS
Department of Energy
Govt. of Jharkhand

Dated... 16/07/2020

From,

L. Khiantge, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary
Department of Energy
Government of Jharkhand.

To,

Chairperson,
Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission
Kanke Road, Ranchi

Sub: Providing relief of Waiver of Fixed Charges for the months of April, May & June 2020 and moratorium on electricity bill payments for 03 months to industrial / commercial consumers affected due to lockdown to control spread of (COVID-19)-regarding.

Ref: Letter No. GRD/AC/2020-21/206 dated 07/07/2020 of Shri Sudivya Kumar, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Giridih, Jharkhand.

Sir,

Imposition of lockdown post outbreak of COVID-19 has thrown many challenges before the Consumers and Discoms. Due to slowdown of economic activities, there has been constant pressure on the financial position of Discoms as well as consumers. Several representations have been received from various industrial/commercial consumers for providing relief in fixed charges and DPS leviable. Association of DVC HT Consumers of Jharkhand, through a representation to Shri Sudivya Kumar, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Giridih (Jharkhand) has also requested that in view of the closure of business activities due to the lockdown, waiver of Fixed Charges for the months of March 2020 to June 2020 should be provided. In addition, it has been further requested to provide moratorium of 3 months for payment of electricity bills due between 01/04/2020 and 30/06/2020 to avoid hardship due to slowdown in economic activities.

2. Therefore, in view of public interest, the Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission is requested to provide the following reliefs to the consumers of Jharkhand:

2.1 Moratorium of three months for payment of electricity bills which are due between 01/04/2020 and 30/06/2020, without levying any Delayed Payment Surcharge (DPS) for all consumers of all the Distribution Licensee in the State.

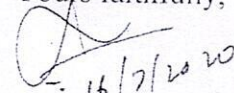
2.2 Waiver of Demand / Fixed Charges for the month of April, May and June 2020 for industrial & commercial consumers of all Distribution Licensee of Jharkhand.

2.3 The generating units within the State for which Tariff is determined through JSERC may also be directed to provide similar relief of moratorium on bills and waiver of Demand / Fixed charges to all the Distribution Licensee buying power from such generators. Further, the generating units may also be directed to ensure that no power is regulated for want of payments pertaining to power purchase for the period March'20 to June'20.

2.4 The waiver provided on DPS would entail additional working capital requirement which in turn would lead to extra interest on working capital as per the regulatory norms. Further, the waiver of Demand / Fixed Charges to Industrial / Commercial consumers would lead to reduction in revenue / collection which may not be recognized by Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

3. It is therefore requested that above mentioned waivers may be considered while determining the Interest on Working Capital and the Tariff for FY 2020-21.

Yours faithfully,



16/7/20 20
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