**BEFORETHE UTTAR PRADESH ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION,**

**LUCKNOW**

**Quorum**

Shri Desh Deepak Verma, Chairman

Shri S. K. Agarwal, Member

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**Suo-Moto Proceedings for Implementation for Pre-paid Metering**

**And**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

1. Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL), Shakti Bhawan, 14 – Ashok Marg, Lucknow.
2. Madhyanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd. (MVVNL), Prag Narain Road, Lucknow.
3. Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd. (PuVVNL), 132 KV S/s, Bhikaripur Vidyut Nagar, Varanasi.
4. Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd. (PVVNL), Victoria Park, Meerut.
5. Dakshanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd. (DVVNL), Vidyut Bhawan, Gailana Road, Agra.
6. Kanpur Electricity Supply Company Ltd. (KESCo), KESA House, 14/71, Civil Lines, Kanpur.
7. Noida Power Company Ltd. (NPCL), Commercial Complex, H-Block, Alpha II Sector, Greater Noida City.

The following were present:

1. Shri Arvind Rajvedi, MD, MVVNL
2. Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director (Comm.), UPPCL
3. Shri Mohit Agarwal, Director (Comm.), PuVVNL
4. Shri R. K. Jain, Staff Officer, Chairman, UPPCL
5. Shri S. K. Saxena, CE, DVVNL
6. Shri Vijay Saluja, SE, UPPCL
7. Shri Anand Prakash, SE-EUDC-I
8. Shri C.P. Yadav, SE-EUDC-II
9. Shri R. K. Soni, SE (Comm.), KESCO
10. Shri Vinod Ahuja, EE, UPPTCL
11. Shri Kamta Nath Panday, AE, UPPCL
12. Shri Rajiv Goyal, GM Project, NPCL
13. Shri Gaurav Srivastava, Manager- Marketing, Secure Meters Ltd.
14. Shri Sunil Gupta, Manager- Design, Secure Meters Ltd.
15. Shri Maya Shankar Mishra, Secure Meters Ltd.
16. Shri Avadhesh Kumar Verma, Chairman, UPRVUP
17. Shri Manoj Singh, HCL

**ORDER**

**(Hearing02.05.2017)**

The Commission in its Order dated July 07, 2016 in the matter of Suo Moto proceeding for implementation of prepaid metering has directed the licensees on various issues pertaining to the installation of prepaid meter.The following targets were issued by the Commission for installation of prepaid meters within 3 months from the date of hearing i.e. June 16, 2016.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Licensee | No. of meters |
| PVVNL | 15000 |
| PuVVNL | 10000 |
| DVVNL | 10000 |
| MVVNL | 10000 |
| KESCO | 5000 |
| NPCL | 5000 |

The Commission in its Order dated October 20, 2016 in the matter of Suo Moto proceeding for implementation of prepaid metering has shown its displeasure over the extremely slow progress made by HCL in the integration process. The Commission had directed HCL to complete the integration and testing process within one week from the date of hearing i.e. September 20, 2016 and further ensure that the consumer should have the facility to recharge though internet for all the Discoms. The Commission had also directed to all the Discoms that it would review the progress on installation and integration of prepaid meters in the next scheduled hearing.

The Commission in its Order datedNovember30, 2016 in the matter of Suo Moto proceeding for implementation of prepaid metering showed its displeasure on delay in integration to facilitate on line token generation. Further, on slow progress, non compliance of Commission’s Order and non cooperation in the integration process. The Commission also directed that if the on line token generation process is not completed by HCL in next 30 days time the penalty of Rs- 1 lac may be imposed on HCL.

During the hearing dated May 02, 2017, The Commission in view of its previous Orders on implementation of prepaid metering, asked the Distribution Companies & HCL about the status of the compliance. The Commission inquired that whether the problem of co-ordination between secure &HCL has been solved.

Shri Sanjay Singh, Director Commercial, UPPCL submitted that the problem has been solved upto some extent through a third party, ItzCash. The demo of online token recharge was showed through itzCash portal on UPPCL website before the Commission.

Shri Avadhesh verma submitted that the demonstration shows that problem is only solved through itz Cash platform but what HCL has done to resolve the problem which is persisting for last two years despite several direction by the Commission.

HCL submitted that they tried their best in present scenario but it has taken time due to the limitation of the software platform.

Shri R.K. Jain submitted that it will take another 10 days for migration of data and prior notice will be served to the consumers that no recharge will be available during the period of migration and the consumer should recharge in advance for that period.

The Commission directed UPPCL that in rural areas if recharge is not available temporary supply must be provided to such consumer.

Progress of installation of the Pre-paid meters as submitted is as below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Discom** | **Prepaid Meters Installation Targets** | **Prepaid Meter Installed within 3 months from June 16, 2016** |
| PVVNL | 15000 | 3847 |
| PuVVNL | 10000 | 2459 |
| DVVNL | 10000 | 872 |
| MVVNL | 10000 | 3131 |
| KESCO | 5000 | 2620 |
| NPCL | 5000 | 319 |

The Commission expressed its extreme displeasure on tardy progress of Discoms to install prepaid meters and extraordinarydelay of nearly 12 months in integration to facilitate online token generation and recharge by Discoms and by HCL despite the directions in various Orders. Throughout the proceedings the Commission has many times shown displeasure on the unsatisfactory performance of HCL. It has even warned in the open court of severe punishment but it does not mend it ways and perform. The Commission feels that the Discoms and HCL are not interested in online integration of recharge of prepaid meters because of which there is slow progress in installation of prepaid meters. Further, it is a clear violation of Commission’s Order and the Commission shall be forced to take action under Section 142 of Electricity Act, 2003 against the concerned officers of the Discoms, UPPCL and HCL.

Further, taking into cognizance the Commission’s Order dated November 30, 2016 in the above matter in regard to issue of notice to Managing Director, HCL that why a penalty of Rs 1 Lacs should not be imposed upon him, the Commission directed Secretary, UPERC to immediately issue notice to Managing Director, HCL to appear personally or through a senior officer and explain the reasons for extraordinary delay of nearly 12 months in integration to facilitate online token generation and recharge and why a penalty of Rs. 1 Lacs shall not be imposed on HCL for this extraordinary delay. Because of this delay in integration process the users of prepaid meters are facing problem of recharge and that is one of the main reason that the consumers are not willing for installation of prepaid meters.

It is further directed that the integration must be completed before 31st May, 2017 and on 31st May,2017 it shall be demonstrated before the Commission for 2 consumers that the prepaid meter can be recharged online.

It is further directed that no prepaid connection should be given manually and all connections should be given online so that there is no need of migration from offline to online in new connections. Further the UPPCL was directed to ensure that by the end of 31stMay, 2017 all prepaid connection are migrated from offline to online and also the provision of giving rebate of 1.25% should be incorporated in the meter software.

List on 31.05.2017 at 11:30 hrs

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **(S. K. Agarwal)** | **(Desh Deepak Verma)** |
| **Member** | **Chairman** |

Place: Lucknow

Date:15.05.2017