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**BEFORE**  
**THE UTTAR PRADESH ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION,**  
**LUCKNOW**

**Petition No.: 1015 / 2015**

**IN THE MATTER OF: Fixation of Tariff 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.

..... **Petitioners or affected Distribution Licensees**

**Present**

1. Shri Desh Deepak Verma, Chairman
2. Smt. Meenakshi Singh, Member
3. Shri I. B. Pandey, Member

**ORDER**

With regard to the Pre-paid Metering, the Commission has passed an Order in the matter of Tariff applicable for the connections given to Jhuggi / Hutments and Patri Shopkeepers on August 25, 2014. Further, the Commission in its Tariff Order for FY 2014-15 dated October 1, 2014 has also provided direction to the Distribution Licensees regarding expedition of process of introduction of Pre-paid meters.

Moreover, in this regard, various meetings were held between officers of the Commission, representatives of State Distribution Licensees and various stakeholders to discuss the issues regarding the implementation of Pre-paid meters in the State. With regard to the same, a Petition was filed by the all the five State Distribution Licensees on April 24, 2015

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(Petition No. 1015 / 2015) in the matter of fixation of Tariff for Pre-paid Metering and the petitioners requested the Commission to consider their suggestions / proposals to implement Pre-paid metering in the State. Further, a meeting was also held at UPERC Office on April 28, 2015 which was attended by various officials of the Commission and Distribution Licensees to discuss various matters related to Pre-paid Metering. Consequently, based on the points raised during the meeting, the Distribution Licensees vide letter No. 2453 / RAU / Petition submitted its replies to the Commission on April 30, 2015.

In this regard, taking into consideration the submissions made by the licensees, the Commission hereby approves the following:

1. Any consumer having prepaid meter shall be entitled to a discount as specified (as per TO for FY 2014-15 it is 1.25% on Rate of Charge) in the applicable Tariff Order.
2. Initially the installation of pre-paid meters may be done for LMV category of consumers with load up to 45 kW only.
3. Fixed charges for the Pre-paid consumers should be computed on the contracted / sanctioned load of the consumer instead of demand recorded by the meter or 75% of contracted load, whichever is higher, basis.
4. For Pre-paid consumers there should not be any penalty for exceeding the contracted demand, instead if the consumer exceeds its contracted demand his supply will be automatically cut off, which can be immediately resumed after removing the excess load by the consumer and resetting the meter by a simple push button. However, in case a consumer is desirous of enhancing his load, the existing applicable procedures shall apply.
5. In case of change of category of consumer on grounds that his consumption exceeds a pre-defined level, the difference amount may be spread on 3 successive units as illustrated below.

**Illustration for Life-Line Consumers tariff as per Tariff Order for FY 2014-15:**

*A "Lifeline" category consumer has to pay Rs. 435.00/- for consumption of 150 kWh and Rs. 679.50/- for consumption of 151 kWh. So, just by exceeding one unit after*

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*150 units, the consumer would get shifted to “Other Metered” category and all its units already consumed would have to be charged as per the tariff of “Other Metered” category. For this consumption of this extra 1 kWh, he now has to pay Rs. 244.50/- (Rs. 679.50 - Rs. 435.00). Thus, the above amount of Rs. 244.50 would be recovered by dividing / spreading it into 3 successive units i.e. Rs. 81.5/unit.*

6. For Lifeline consumers, if the consumption exceeds a certain limit (say 150 units) and the supply is interrupted for non availability of balance, then the excess amount to be paid by the consumer shall be adjusted in the next recharge.
  7. The Minimum Charges specified for a particular category of consumer would be inclusive of Electricity Duty and the Regulatory Surcharges. However, the Electricity Duty and Regulatory Surcharges should be computed on the actual energy consumption.
  8. For issue of recharge vouchers, initially the existing billing centres shall be authorized to issue these vouchers on working days. Later on depending upon the acceptability of prepaid meters, online recharge facility, recharge through ATM etc. should be introduced.
  9. The prepaid meters should be installed outside the premises of the consumer, with display unit within. In case a consumer opts for prepaid meter, the charges in respect of meter and cable may be charged in 12 equal monthly instalments.
  10. At least one prepaid meter recharge shall have to be done within a maximum period of four months. The minimum recharge voucher shall be of Rs. 500/-. However the licensee may reduce the value, based on the response and need of the consumer.
  11. In case of zero balance, the prepaid meter shall allow continuity of supply from 4.00 P.M of the current day till 11.00 A.M of the next day. The meter shall also not interrupt the supply on Sundays and National Holidays. The consumer shall be prompted whenever his balance goes below Rs 100/-. The consumer will also be given the facility to set a prompt as per his requirement. Accordingly, the supply will automatically stop after the exhaustion of complete balance except for the conditions stated above.
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12. If the balance of the consumer exhausts during the period specified above and the supply is not interrupted then, the amount billed due to consumption during this period will be recovered in the subsequent recharge of the Prepaid Meter. After deduction of the due amount from the total recharge amount, the balance amount would be available to the consumer for use. If the recharge amount is not sufficient to recover the due amount, the consumer will not be allowed for further consumption till the entire outstanding due is recovered.
  13. In case a revised tariff is required to be implemented, a zero value recharge coupon shall be applied to the prepaid meter by staff of the licensee.
  14. In case a post-paid consumer is allowed to pay his existing dues on instalments, and that consumer wishes to apply for a prepaid meter, his existing instalments shall be transferred to the prepaid meter. New prepaid connection shall not be issued in premises where arrears exist.

The Petition is disposed off as above.

**(I. B. Pandey)**  
**Member**

**(Meenakshi Singh)**  
**Member**

**(Desh Deepak Verma)**  
**Chairman**

Place: Lucknow

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

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