Before the MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION World Trade Centre, Centre No.1, 13th Floor, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai 400005 Tel. 022 69876666 Email: mercindia@merc.gov.in Website: <u>www.merc.gov.in</u>

Case No. 231 of 2023

Petition seeking clarifications on certain provisions in MERC (Grid interactive rooftop renewable energy generating systems) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2023 and MERC (Distribution Open Access) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2023.

Mr. Sudhir Budhay...PeMaharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. (MSEDCL)...Ref

<u>Coram</u> Sanjay Kumar, Chairperson Anand M. Limaye, Member Surendra J. Biyani, Member

For the Petitioner For the Respondent : Mr. Sudhir Budhay (Rep.) Ms. Deepa Chawan (Adv)

<u>ORDER</u>

Date: 19 May 2024

- 1. Mr. Sudhir Budhay has filed the present Petition on 29 November 2023 seeking clarifications on certain provisions in MERC (Grid interactive rooftop renewable energy generating systems) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2023 (Rooftop RE Amendment Regulations, 2023) and MERC (Distribution Open Access) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2023 (Green Energy Open Access Regulations, 2023).
- 2. The Petitioner is engaged in consultancy business in the field of Renewable energy. In past, he has filed Case No. 86 of 2013 for enabling Net Metering in Maharashtra. He has also filed Case No.176 of 2023 to drop the concept of Grid Support Charges permanently.

Petitioner

Respondent

Present Petition in the interest of public and effort to save the planet earth through use of renewable energies thereby reduce pollution and carbon emission in atmosphere.

3. The Petitioner's prayers are as under:

- a) Hon'ble Commission may please admit this petition.
- b) Condone any inadvertent omissions/ errors/ shortcomings and permit petitioner to add/change/modify/alter this filing and make further submissions as may be required at a future date.
- c) Examine the concerns expressed by the petitioner for a favourable dispensation
- *d) Provide clarifications in concerns / doubts raised for smooth execution of your notifications.*
- e) Pass such further and other orders, as the Commission may deem fit and proper keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the case in public interest.
- 4. During the hearing held on 20 August 2024, the Petitioner submitted that in spite of notification of Rooftop RE Amendment Regulations, 2023 and Green Energy Open Access Regulations, 2023, MSEDCL and MSETCL have not issued the Circulars for their implementation. The Commission noted that MSEDCL and MSETCL are not the Party Respondents in present matter and hence, impleaded them as formal party Respondents. The Commission directed MSEDCL and MSETCL to issue Circulars/Procedures at their end within (15) days for implementation of above said Regulations and submit the compliance report.
- 5. In response to the Commission's notice, MSETCL filed its submission on 18 November 2024. In said submission, MSETCL informed that the procedure for grant of long/medium term green energy open access has been published on MSETCL's website on 3 October 2024. With regards to clarifications and prayers, MSETCL has no comments.
- 6. The second hearing in the matter was held on 19 November 2024. The Petitioner re-iterated its submission. Advocate appearing on behalf of MSEDCL submitted it has challenged the Rooftop RE (First Amendment) Regulations, 2023 before Hon'ble Bombay High Court. She highlighted that the Commission cannot deal with Public Interest Litigations. In support she put forth various Supreme Court Case Laws and APTEL Judgements.
- 7. The Commission find that MSEDCL has not objected this Petition on merits, it has only opposed this Petition on the ground that the Commission do not have jurisdiction to deal with Public Interest Litigations. In this regard, the Commission notes that the present

Petition is for clarifications on certain provisions from the Rooftop RE Amendment Regulations, 2023 and Green Energy Open Access Regulations, 2023. Hence, these cannot be considered as PIL and hence, the Commission is dealing with the same.

8. The Commission has organized the Order in (2) parts dealing clarifications in respect of Rooftop RE Amendment Regulations, 2023 and Green Energy Open Access Regulations, 2023. For sake of brevity, the Commission has structured this Order in accordance with the Petitioner's submission and the Commission's ruling on the same.

Part (A): Clarifications in respect of Rooftop RE Amendment Regulations, 2023

- 8.1 Banking Charges for High Voltage Consumers:
- 8.1.1. Net Metering limit is extended to 5 MW. Some of 33 kV (or even 132 kV) consumers are also likely to come under Net Metering eligibility limit. The Petitioner requested to confirm banking charges for such consumers connected on High Voltage.

Commission's Analysis & Ruling:

8.1.2. 2nd proviso to Regulation 11.5 reads as below:

"Provided further that the Grid Support Charges shall not be levied till installations under rooftop arrangement in the State reach 5000 MW:

Provided also that till the Grid Support Charges as envisaged in the Regulations stay exempted, Distribution Licensees may approach the Commission with specific Petition for recovery of banking charges, and in case, the recovery of banking charges have already been approved by the Commission prior to notification of these Regulations, the same shall continue."

8.1.3. Before notification of Regulations, the Commission has accorded its approval to levy of banking charges on net metering installations in MSEDCL's License area. The relevant part of the Commission's Order dated 30 March 2020 in Case No. 322 of 2019 is reproduced below:

"8.20.29Having, exempted levy of Grid Support Charge, the Commission cannot be ignorant of the fact that Distribution Licensee incurrs certain costs in order to provide services to RTPV under net-metering arrangement. One of such service is energy banking facility under which RTPV owner banks excess generated energy with MSEDCL and uses it subsequently. During public consultation process, some of the stakeholders have suggested that the Commission may impose banking charges in kind i.e. deduct 15 to 20% of banked energy as a banking charge. **The Commission notes** that such units made available by way of adjustment in kind, can be used for offsetting some of the Wheeling Loss which the licensee incurrs in supplying back the banked units to consumers. Hence, till the Grid Support Charges as envisaged in the Regulations stay exempted, in order to enable MSEDCL to at least recover cost of banking service, the Commission has decided to levy banking charge. For this purpose, the Commission has linked such Banking Charge to Wheeling Loss allowed in this Order i.e. 7.5% for HT and 12% to LT. Accordingly, for RTPV connected on HT network, from the energy injected into the grid, 7.5% energy will be deducted by MSEDCL as a Banking Charge. Similarly, for RTPV connected on LT side such deduction of energy would be 12%."

In subsequent MTR Order in Case No.226 of 2022 dated 31 March 2023, the Commission has continued with the same banking charges.

- 8.1.4. The Petitioner has pointed out that with increase in capacity limit for Net Metering facility, consumer connected on EHV/HT level will increase their RE capacities. In such scenario clarity is required on banking charges.
- 8.1.5. The intent of linking banking charge with wheeling loss is to offset some of cost of Distribution Licensee till Grid Support Charge remains exempted. Levy of banking charge is an interim arrangement. In MSEDCL's case, the Commission has allowed banking charge on notional basis. The Commission clarifies that RE systems of consumers connected on HT/EHV levels shall be subjected to banking charges equivalent to wheeling loss for HT levels.
- 8.2 <u>Definition of 'Same Consumer' as mentioned in Regulation 2.1 (k) (c) under 'Group Net</u> <u>Metering':</u>
- 8.2.1. The Petitioner sought clarification on the criteria to qualify as 'same consumer' for the purpose of Regulation 2.1 (k) (c). The Petitioner envisaged following possibilities:
 - a. Is it expected that the consumer's name should be same for all the locations, Or
 - b. A consumer with connection in his/her personal name and the other connection are in his/her Business name (Proprietary Business) (same PAN No. at all locations) will also qualify, Or
 - c. Can a consumer club connection in the name of his family members / blood relative (wife / son / daughter / brother / sister) to get defined as 'same consumer'. In practical situations, multiple properties are generally purchased in the name of blood relatives from income tax point of view, Or

- d. In case of Partnership or LLP or Pvt Ltd or Ltd company, what is the minimum shareholding required to qualify such relation. In the event shareholding is allowed, then what will be the set of documents required to be attached along with the application.
- e. In case of Government, Semi-Government, Local bodies (Corporations, ZP etc.), MIDC, Irrigation Department, PWD etc. the connections are in the name of 'Director', 'Executive Engineer', 'Assistant Engineer' etc.

For qualifying under Group Net Metering all of them shall have to apply for change in name. In case the department is same, then name of Post needs to be ignored. This will save lot time and also of man hours spent on such non-productive activities both by applicant and by Distribution Licensee.

Commission's Analysis & Ruling:

8.2.2. Regulation 2.1 (k) (c) reads as below:

"2.1 (k)(c) "Group Net Metering" means an arrangement whereby surplus energy is injected from a Renewable Energy Generating System through Net Meter and the exported energy is adjusted in more than one electricity service connection(s) of <u>the</u> <u>same consumer</u> either at the same or different premise located within the same Distribution Licensee's area of supply;"

- 8.2.3. The Commission notes that the Connection is identified by its name, premises and unique consumer number. Group Net Metering facility is meant for connections of same consumer.
- 8.2.4. The Consumer is defined in the Electricity Act, 2003 as below:

""consumer" means <u>any person who is supplied with electricity for his own</u> use by a licensee or the Government or by any other person engaged in the business of supplying electricity to the public under this Act or any other law for the time being in force and includes any person whose premises are for the time being connected for the purpose of receiving electricity with the works of a licensee, the Government or such other person, as the case may be;"

Further, 'Person' is defined in the Electricity Acy, 2003 as below:

"person" shall include any company or body corporate or association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, or artificial juridical person;" With above statutory stipulations it is clarified that multiple connections of any corporate body or company can avail Net Metering facility. But the Regulations cannot be stretched to cover connections owned by family members or Businesses of sister concerns with different Name.

- 8.2.5. As far as Government departments are concern, connections are own and used by different authorities for different purposes. Generally connections are in the name of fund disbursement authorities. The Commission is satisfied with the Petitioners argument that 'change of name' formalities will increase the time line for Government Departments in getting benefitted. Hence, it is clarified that connections of same government department (like PWD, Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikarn, Grampanchayat) can be considered for Group Net Metering arrangement.
- 8.3 <u>Provision to alter priority list/ratio as per Regulation 11.9(c):</u>
- 8.3.1. Regulation 11.9 (c) provides for change of priority and ratio of adjustment of balance surplus energy once in the beginning of the year.
 - Apart from the above alteration, addition or deletion of beneficiary list at the same time may be allowed.
 - In the event of sale of property / change in the name of consumer and also in the event of addition of new property, chance may be given to alter the priority/ratio any time during the financial year. This may be against payment of nominal charges.

Commission's Analysis & Ruling:

8.3.2. Regulation 11.9 (c) reads as below:

"(c) <u>The priority list along with the share ratio</u> for adjustment of the balance surplus energy against other electricity connection(s) <u>may be revised by the Consumer once</u> <u>at the beginning of every financial year</u> with an advance notice of two months;"

8.3.3. The Commission notes that priority list is declared by the primary consumer in its application. Regulation 11.9 (c) provides for revision in share ratios. After perusal of highlighted portion in the Regulations 11.9 (c), it is abundantly clear that the Regulations do not envisage the scenario of alteration (addition/deletion) in priority list. Under any situation, if consumer is inclined to add or delete the name of beneficiary then in such situation existing connection agreement needs to be terminated and new connection agreement be executed.

- 8.3.4. In case of sale of property and/or Change of Name, such connections will automatically fall out of Group Net Metering facility, due to non-fulfilment of Regulation 2.1 (k) (c). In such cases, the generation will get accounted in primary consumer's account.
- 8.4 <u>Group Net Metering Energy Accounting & Settlement:</u>
- 8.4.1. The Commission has defined the Prosumer in the Regulations. Under Group Net Metering, Prosumer is producing excess power at one location termed as 'Primary' Connection' where solar power generation is located. For sake of understanding other beneficiary service connections are termed as 'Satellite Connections' where excess generation is expected to be compensated.
- 8.4.2. In such scenario following clarification is required:
 - a. Can a 'Satellite connection' himself be a net metered consumer, whereby it is falling short of power for power consumption in off peak hrs.
 - b. Can a 'Satellite connection' be a beneficiary of two or more such Group Net Metering i.e. can satellite consumer get power compensation from (2) or more 'primary' connections owned by the same consumer.

Example:

Suppose a consumer / factory having (5) service connections at (5) different locations (say A, B, C, D & E).

If it has required sanctioned load and space at (3) locations (say A, B & C). Locations D & E are such that there is no space and the off-peak hrs consumption is high. Under such circumstances can Prosumer A, B & C – all of them, add consumer numbers of D & E as satellite connection / beneficiary in the Group Net Metering application.

Commission's Analysis & Ruling:

- 8.4.3. By adding one consumer as a beneficiary to two or more Primary connections will complicate the billing. Group Net Metering is a facility is extended to settle surplus generation at primary connection and not for pooling the power to shave off the consumption of other subsidiary (Satellite) connection.
- 8.4.4. Further, it is clarified that Group Net Metering is arrangement between one Primary Net Metering connection and other whole current Meter connections and not between two Prosumers.

8.5 <u>Clarification on method of calculation for 50% of credit amount as mentioned in</u> <u>Regulation 11.4 (e)</u>

- 8.5.1. Following two qualifying criteria for refund of credit by way of electronic transfer:
 - Consumer should have continuous credit for past consecutive three years and
 - Credit should be continuously increasing.
- 8.5.2. There is no doubt about the 1st year's calculation, but clarification is required for subsequent financial year.
- 8.5.3. The Petitioner elaborated following example:

Consumer has credit for last 3 Fiscals as under (say Rs 50/- added to his/her credit every year by way of surplus production)

FY 23-24 - Rs 200

FY 22-23 - Rs 150

FY 21-22 - Rs 100

Now under such situation the consumer is eligible for 50% refund i.e. Rs 100 on 1 April 2024. But the status of credit on 31 March 2025 shall be as under

FY 24-25 - Rs 150

FY 23-24 - Rs 200 (less refunded Rs 100) = Rs 100 credit on 31st March 2024

FY 22-23 - Rs 150

Now the consumer has fulfilled the 1st criteria of continuous credit for consecutive (3) years but failed on the 2nd criteria i.e. the credit is not increasing. Hence, the Petitioner suggested to drop the 2nd qualifying criteria i.e. 'credit amount is continuously increasing'.

Commission's Analysis & Ruling:

8.5.4. 1st and 2nd Proviso to Regulation 11.4(e) reads as below:

"Provided that <u>in case such credit amount is continuously increasing at the end of</u> <u>three consecutive financial years</u>, then at the end of third financial year, 50% of the credit amount shall be paid in cash through electronic transfer to the consumer within 60 days of end of such third financial year and balance 50% shall be credited in the second electricity bill after the end of such third financial year:

Provided further that in case of delay in payment of the credit amount through electronic transfer and/or crediting of electricity bill beyond 60 days of end of such third financial year, the Distribution Licensee shall be required to pay simple interest on the outstanding amount at the rate equal to the prevalent 1-year Marginal Cost of Lending Rate (MCLR) of State Bank of India plus 150 basis points to the Eligible Consumer."

- 8.5.5. Net metering feature is basically for captive consumption, it is expected that consumer installed rooftop RE Generating system to meet its own consumption. Intent of proposed amendment was to bring down the accumulated credits on account of surplus generation and not to provide cash-based revenue stream to prosumers.
- 8.5.6. The Commission do not find any merit in suggestion of altering criteria for providing cash credits.

Part (B): Clarifications in respect of Green Energy Open Access (GEOA) Regulations, 2023

- 8.6 <u>Stipulations under Regulation 2.1(19)(a) dealing with consumer with multiple</u> <u>connections:</u>
- 8.6.1. To qualify as 'consumer with multiple connections' for the purpose of Regulation 2.1(19)(a), the Petitioner envisaged following:
 - a. Is it expected that the consumer's name should be same for all the locations; Or
 - b. A consumer with connection in his/her personal name and the other connection in his/her Business name (Proprietary Business) (same PAN No. at all locations) will also qualify; Or
 - c. Can a consumer club connections in the name of his family members / blood relative (wife / son / daughter / brother / sister) to get defined as 'same consumer'.
 - d. In the case of Partnership or LLP or Pvt Ltd or Ltd company, what is the minimum shareholding required to qualify such relation. In the event shareholding is allowed, then what will be the set of documents required to be attached along with the application.

e. In the case of Government, Semi-Government, Local bodies (Corporations, ZP etc.), MIDC, Irrigation Department, PWD etc. the connections are in the name of 'Director', 'Executive Engineer', 'Assistant Engineer' etc. For qualifying, all of them shall have to apply for change in name. The Petitioner suggested that if the parent department is same, then name of Post needs to be ignored. This will save lot time and also of man hours spent on such non-productive activities both by applicant and also by Distribution Licensee.

Commission's Analysis & Ruling:

8.6.2. Regulation 2.1(19)(a) reads as below:

"2.1(19)(a) "Entity" means <u>any consumer</u> who has contracted demand or sanctioned load of Hundred kW or more either <u>through multiple connections</u> aggregating Hundred kW or more located in same electricity circle of a Distribution Licensee, except for captive consumers :

Provided that in case of captive consumers, there shall not be any load limitation;

Provided further that the above licence area restriction shall be applicable to the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) only and for all other Distribution Licensees, the area to be considered shall be equal to the entire licence area ;" (Emphasis added)

- 8.6.3. The Commission notes that Open Access is a facility whereby a consumer can source power either from third part generator or from his own source. In case of third party Open Access, GEOA facility is subject to capacity limit of 100 kW. The said capacity limits are typically associated with a unique consumer. GEOA Regulations has also allowed multiple connections of the same consumer to participate and meet such threshold limit.
- 8.6.4. The *Consumer* is defined in the Electricity Act, 2003 as below:

"consumer" means <u>any person who is supplied with electricity for his own</u> use by a licensee or the Government or by any other person engaged in the business of supplying electricity to the public under this Act or any other law for the time being in force and includes any person whose premises are for the time being connected for the purpose of receiving electricity with the works of a licensee, the Government or such other person, as the case may be;"

Further, 'Person' is defined in the Electricity Acy, 2003 as below:

""person" shall include any company or body corporate or association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, or artificial juridical person;"

With above statutory stipulations it is clarified that multiple connections of any corporate body or company can become eligible for GEOA if fulfilling threshold load limit criteria. But the Regulations cannot be stretched to cover connections owned by family members or Businesses of sister concerns with different Name.

- 8.6.5. With regards to Government Departments, the Commission clarifies that if the connections are belong to same department or establishment then the same may be considered for enabling GEOA subject to meeting threshold load limit.
- 8.7 <u>Clarification on Banking cycle mentioned under Regulation 20.5 of GEOA Regulations:</u>
- 8.7.1. As per Regulation 20.5, the unutilized banked energy shall be considered as lapsed at the end of each banking cycle. The Petitioner requested to provide clarification on the period on banking cycle. It is not clear weather banking cycle will end every month or every year.

Commission's Analysis & Ruling:

8.7.2. Regulation 20.5 reads as below:

"20.5 The un-utilised surplus banked energy shall be considered <u>as lapsed at the end</u> <u>of each banking cycle</u> :

Provided that the Renewable Energy generating station shall be entitled to get Renewable Energy Certificates to the extent of the lapsed banked energy."

8.7.3. The Commission notes that MERC (Distribution Open Access) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2019 provides banking of energy only on monthly basis. Relevant provision reads as under:

"20.3. Banking of energy shall be permitted only on monthly basis.

Provided that the credit for banked energy shall not be permitted to be carried forward to subsequent months and the credit for energy banked during the month shall be adjusted during the same month as per the energy injected in the respective Time of Day ('TOD') slots determined by the Commission in its Orders determining the Tariffs of the Distribution Licensees;

... "

8.7.4. SoR of MERC (Distribution Open Access) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2023 stipulates as under:

" Thus, as can be seen, the proposed restriction limited to 12 time blocks is in line with the MoP Rules. The Rules are also clear that the quantum of power consumed through open access cannot be changed for 12 time blocks, and it is not the schedule that cannot be revised for 12 time blocks. It is also clear from the MoP Rules that the intent of avoiding high variation in demand to be met by the Distribution Licensee can be achieved only if the open access quantum is kept at the same level for 12 time blocks. Further, it is clarified that the generation quantum higher than the consumption quantum during these 12 time blocks shall be entitled to banking, in accordance with these Regulations. Hence, the Commission has not made any modification to the Draft Amendment in this regard, and the GEOA consumers should strive to achieve the same in the interest of grid stability. <u>However, the Commission is of the view that there will be no adverse impact on the GEOA consumers as monthly banking of surplus energy injected is allowed based on the settlement of energy on ToD basis."</u>

- 8.7.5. The Commission notes that explicit provision has been made in MERC (Distribution Open Access) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2019 stipulating monthly banking. Hence, banking cycle will end every month.
- 8.8 <u>GEOA for low Tension Consumers</u>
- 8.8.1. As per Regulation 17.1, GEOA is allowed for low tension consumers on TOD meter. Since GEOA is available for multiple connections aggregating to 100 kW or more, for sake of simplicity all such cases clubbed together to become eligible for GEOA are termed as 'GEOA-M' to isolate such cases from normal GEOA with single consumer above 100 kW.
 - a. Now under 'GEOA-M', there are chances that few participating connections are Non-TOD consumers Or even it can be a 'GEOA-M' of all Non TOD consumers. Will all such Non-TOD consumers be entitled for adjustment of complete energy. Guidelines for adjustment of power for all such Non-TOD consumers are required.
 - b. Guidelines are required in situations of deletion of one consumer from GEOA-M.

For example:

Consider a case of GEOA-M of (4) connections each with say 30 kW sanction load. All these (4) connections qualify as GEOA-M but in the event of sale of one of the properties without addition of any new, do not qualify the condition of GEOA-M. Obviously GEOA-M will stand terminated but it is requested to consider such a case and give them a chance to add new premises with appropriate sanctioned load within (1) year from the date of such change and till such time priority & ratio will remain frozen to earlier status.

Commission's Analysis & Ruling:

- 8.8.2. The Commission notes that the Petitioner is seeking guidelines on following counts:
 - Applicability of GEOA to multiple non-ToD consumers
 - Treatment for considering scenario when one of the participating connection in GEOA get out leading to non-fulfillment of eligibility criteria.
- 8.8.3. 2nd proviso to Regulation 17.1 reads as below:

"Provided further that Green Energy Open Access to Consumer with Contract Demand lower than 1 MW shall be allowed based on Special Energy Meter for all High Tension Consumers and <u>ToD meter for all eligible Low Tension Consumers</u>."

- 8.8.4. The Commission in its GEOA Regulations has categorically made clear that GEOA for low tension consumer has to be allowed based on ToD meters. Hence, for enabling GEOA, ToD meter is must for low tension consumers.
- 8.8.5. If deletion of any consumer from GEOA-multiple connection led to non-fulfilment of the eligibility criteria for Open Access then such Open access arrangement needs to be discontinued/terminated.
- 8.9 <u>Provision to alter percentage share of energy generated in case of GEOA-M (Multiple connections aggregating to 100 kW or more)</u>
- 8.9.1. Unlike Group Net Metering, quantum of power handled will be much more in case of GEOA, the Petitioner requested to allow following:
 - a. Alteration of percentage share and also addition or deletion of beneficiaries under GEOA-M, any number of times throughout the year, if required, against payment of nominal charges.
 - b. In the event of sale of property / change in the name of consumer and in the event of addition of new property, chance may be given to alter the priority/ratio any time during the financial year. This may be against payment of nominal charges.

Commission's Analysis & Ruling:

8.9.2. The Commission notes that GEOA Regulations provides that multiple connections in GEOA need to furnish percentage share of energy generation from RE projects. Relevant proviso to Regulation 3.3 reads as below:

"3.3

Provided also that **in case of multiple connections** <u>before start of</u> Green Energy Open Access, consumers <u>shall intimate</u> the Distribution Licensee <u>in advance</u> regarding the percentage share of energy generation from the Renewable Energy projects to each connection so as to enable the Distribution Licensee to account for the same appropriately :

,,

From above stipulation, it is clear that percentage share of generation necessarily be communicated to Distribution Licensee, well in advance before start of Green Energy Open Access transaction.

- 8.9.3. Clearly Regulations do not envisage any change during Open Access period and hence no clarification is warranted on this count.
- 8.10 <u>Twelve Time Blocks</u>
- 8.10.1. There are different interpretations of 'twelve-time blocks' by different agencies / experts. Clarification is required on following counts:
 - a. Will there be (12) parts of (24) Hrs so that each time block is of (2) Hrs starting from 00 Hrs and energy adjustment will be for 2 hr time block.
 - b. Does it mean that combination of (12) of such present (15) min time blocks (as per TOD meter) i.e. (3) Hrs will form one block for adjustment GEOA power.
- 8.10.2. Since this is a new concept and adjustment of generated power against the consumption is the key design criteria.

Commission's Analysis & Ruling:

8.10.3. MERC (Distribution Open Access) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2019 has provided the definition of Time Block as under:

"(39) "Time Block" means a period of fifteen minutes or any such shorter duration as may be notified by Central Commission and State Commission, for which Special Energy Meters record specified electrical parameters and quantities, with the first such period starting at 00:00 hours;"

- 8.10.4. Hence, it means that combination of (12) of such present (15) minutes time blocks i.e. (3) Hrs will form one block for adjustment GEOA power.
- 9. The Commission notes that during hearing held on 19 November 2024 while reserving the matter for Order, the Commission directed MSEDCL to issue implementation circular within 15 days. In spite of clear directives, MSEDCL has not issued implementation circular. The Commission is dealing with this aspect of implementation of Regulation in Case No. 222 of 2024 and hence not dealt with in this Order.
- 10. Hence, the following Order.

<u>Order</u>

- 1. The Petition in Case No. 231 of 2023 is partly allowed.
- 2. Clarifications related to various provisions of the Regulations are provided in para 8 above.

Sd/-(Surendra J. Biyani) Member Sd/-(Anand M. Limaye) Member

(Dr. Rajendra G. Ambekar) Secretary



Sd/-

(Sanjay Kumar)

Chairperson