

**Before the
MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
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Case No. 120 of 2016

Dated: 22 September, 2016

**CORAM: Shri Azeez M. Khan, Member
Shri. Deepak Lad, Member**

**In the matter of
Petition of Maharashtra Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. for change in the Approved
Load Shedding Protocol**

Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. (MSEDCL)Petitioner

Maharashtra Veej Grahak Sanghatana (MVGS)Intervener

Representative for the Petitioner: Shri. Satish Chavan (Rep.)

Representative for the Intervener: Shri. Pratap Hogade

Representative for the Consumer Representative: Dr. Ashok Pendse (TBIA)

Daily Order

1. Heard the representatives of the Petitioner, Intervener and Authorised Consumer Representative.
2. MSEDCL submitted that, as per load shedding protocol approved by the Commission, Agriculture Load Management feeders were getting 3 phase power supply for 8/10 hours. There was low rainfall in the month of August, 2016. Considering the immense risk of losing standing crops, Government of Maharashtra (GoM) has directed MSEDCL to provide 12 hours power supply to Agriculture pumps. Accordingly, the present Petition has been filed on 6 September, 2016 with following main prayers:

“3. To allow MSEDCL to revise the Load Shedding Protocol for the period September 2016 to November 2016 to the extent of Agriculture Supply Hours;

4. *To allow revised norms for 3 phase availability of power supply to Agricultural pumps as 12 hours during day and 12 hours during night on rotation basis;*
5. *To allow MSEDCL to implement the existing Load Shedding Protocol as per Circular 46 dated 14th January 2013 for AGLM Feeders in case of critical System condition;”*
3. MSEDCL further stated that, in order to save the standing crops, it has implemented the change in availability of power supply to 12 hours for Agriculture pumps since 8th September, 2016. This has been informed to the Commission vide letter dated 8 September, 2016.
4. Dr. Ashok Pendse submitted that such increased hours of supply will lead to increase in power demand at evening peak. MSEDCL’s plan to meet such increase demand and its financial implications are not mentioned in the Petition. Such quantification is also important for arriving at the GoM subsidy required for funding the additional cost due to increased power supply to Agriculture. Expenses for providing such additional power supply cannot be allowed to be loaded on the ARR of MSEDCL and thereby impact other consumers.
5. MVGS filed an Intervention Application which has been allowed by the Commission. MVGS submitted that it is yet to receive copy of MSEDCL’s Petition. While it supported MSEDCL’s prayer to approve increased numbers of hours of supply to Agriculture Consumers, required details such as financial implications of such increased power supply and MSEDCL’s plan to source and manage such increased supply are not set out in MSEDCL’s proposal. MVGS suggested that the Commission may schedule a hearing after MSEDCL submits these and, in the meantime, increased power availability of 12 hours may be continued. MVGS suggested that timings of power supply should be designed in such manner that every farmer gets 6 hours of power supply during day time. MVGS also raised the issue of quality of supply and suggested that over loading and failure of distribution transformers should be minimized.
6. MSEDCL submitted that Agriculture Load Management feeders are switched on/off in gradual manner in the span of 2 hours from 10 to 12 hrs / 22 to 24 hrs. Thus, out of 12 hours of supply, farmers are getting at least 4-6 hours of supply in a day time. Regarding sourcing and managing power, MSEDCL submitted that there is sufficient availability of power to feed the increased power requirement for Agriculture Consumers. There are some pockets where increased power supply is causing overloading of network. Field Officers in such areas have already been instructed to take appropriate actions. In case of any critical system condition due to additional Agriculture loads, MSEDCL will reduce loads on Agriculture Load Management feeders so that other consumers will remain unaffected.

- 7. Having heard the parties, the Commission observed that details such as plan for procuring additional power and its financial implications, ability of network to feed such additional power, quantification and timing of subsidy proposed to be sought from GoM to ensure that there is no impact on other Consumers need to be provided. MSEDCL is directed to file all such details within two weeks with a copy to the Parties and Consumer Representatives.**

- 8. In the meantime, considering the objective of the present Petition, i.e. providing 12 hours power supply to Agricultural pumps for the standing crops, as an interim measure and for a limited period, the Commission allows MSEDCL to continue to provide 12 hours power supply to Agriculture pumps. MSEDCL is also directed to give necessary publicity to the timings of the increased hours of power supply for the benefit of Agriculture Consumers.**

After receipt of details as mentioned in Para 7, the Secretariat of the Commission will communicate the next date of hearing in the matter.

**Sd/-
(Deepak Lad)
Member**

**Sd/-
(Azeez M. Khan)
Member**