MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION World Trade Centre, Centre No.1, 13th Floor, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai 400005. Tel. 022 22163964/65/69 Fax 22163976 Email: <u>mercindia@merc.gov.in</u> Website: <u>www.merc.gov.in</u>

Date:- 14 May, 2021

CORAM:- Sanjay Kumar. Chairperson I.M Bohari, Member Mukesh Khullar, Member

Case No 39 of 2021and MA 9 of 2021

Case of Laghu Udhyog Bharati seeking deferment of new provision related to security deposit for the period of 3 years i.e., till the impact of COVID-19 gets streamline and seeking practice directions to MSEDCL for complying with statutory requirements post collection of GSTs and TDS

Laghu Udhyog Bharati (LUB)

:Petitioner

Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) : Respondent No.1Prayas Energy Group:- Impleadment Applicant

Appearance

Vs

Laghu Udhyog Bharati:- Shri. Ashish Chandana (Rep)Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited:- Shri Rahul Sinha (Adv.)Prayas Energy Group:- Shri. Shantanu Dixit (Rep)

Daily Order

- 1. Heard the Petitioner and the Respondent through their representatives.
- 2. During the hearing, Advocate of MSEDCL requested for adjournment on the ground that the issues raised in the Petition are to be addressed after taking inputs from different departments of MSEDCL. It is getting difficult to co-ordinate with them due to poor attendance of staff in office on account of lockdown due to corona crisis. MSEDCL requested for additional time of 2 weeks for filing reply.

- 3. Representative of Petitioner objected to the adjournment request of MSEDCL on the ground that Petition was served on MSEDCL almost a month back. He also stated that MSEDCL has started levying additional Security Deposit as per new Supply Code Regulations, 2021 from April 2021 bills. The levy of Security Deposit is the primary issue in the Petition.
- 4. Prayas Energy Group, Intervener in present matter, did not oppose the adjournment but requested that MSEDCL be directed to file its reply to the additional issues highlighted by Prayas in its intervention application.
- 5. Advocate of MSEDCL brought to the notice of the Commission that another Petition in Case No 62 of 2021 has also been filed with the Commission on the similar issues and therefore requested the Commission to club the e-hearing of both the cases.
- 6. Having heard parties, the Commission expressed displeasure over delay in filing of reply by MSEDCL even though Petition was served almost a month back. However, considering the fact that MSEDCL is main respondent, the Commission allowed adjournment in the matter with following directions:
 - a. MSEDCL to file its submission within one week with copy to all parties. The Petitioner shall file the rejoinder (if any) within 3 days thereafter.
 - Petitioner to make available the records of the specific consumers whose issues of GST Invoice and TDS certificate have been referred in the Petition within 2-3 days to MSEDCL.
 - c. Intervention Application of Prayas Energy Group is allowed. MSEDCL shall file its reply on issues raised by Prayas in its application within seven days with copy served on all parties. Prayas to to file its rejoinder (if any) within 3 days thereafter.
 - d. Secretariat of the Commission to schedule the e-hearing in the Case No 39 of 2021 and Case No 62 of 2021, together.

Next date of hearing will be intimated by the Secretariat of the Commission.

Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-
(Mukesh Khullar)	(I.M. Bohari)	(Sanjay Kumar)
Member	Member	Chairperson