

**Before the  
MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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**Date: 28 January 2022**

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

**Case No. 145 of 2021**

**Petition for removal of difficulties in implementation of MERC (Grid interactive Rooftop Renewable Energy Generating System) Regulations, 2019**

M/s Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. (MSEDCL) : Petitioner  
Maharashtra Energy Development Authority (MEDA) : Respondent

**Appearance:**

For the Petitioner : Ms. Deepa Chavan, Advocate  
For the Respondent : Mr: Manoj Pise, Representative  
Mr. Anand Raidurg, Representative

**Daily Order**

1. Heard Advocate/Representatives of MSEDCL and MEDA.
2. Advocate of MSEDCL mentioned that as per Regulation 6.6 of MERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Renewable Energy Generating Systems) Regulations, 2019 (GIRREGS Regulations) the consumers with pending arrears are not eligible for Net Metering Arrangement or Net Billing Arrangement. Although intention of this provision is salutary, MSEDCL is facing difficulty for allowing Solar rooftop connections under net metering arrangements to the Public Water Works, Street Lights etc connections of Government/Local Bodies which are in arrears. If such consumer shifts to Solar rooftop, their dependency on grid power will reduce which in turn will help in not building up further arrears for MSEDCL. Hence, through this Petition, MSEDCL is requesting to allow relaxation in above said Regulations to the extent that 30% arrears be paid upfront and balance amount in six equal installments after connection of Solar rooftop. She stated and highlighted that the Commission can allow such relaxation only to Government connections as per the rationale given above, under Section 62 (3) of the EA, 2003. However, she highlighted that to avoid any technical deficiency on procedural aspect, MSEDCL may be

allowed to implead Government/local bodies as parties in this matter.

3. Representatives of MEDA submitted that for promotion of RE power, Government of India and Government of Maharashtra have taken up several proactive steps. MEDA is the implementing agency for projects of installation of RE based systems catering to PWW, Government building connections etc. MEDA is facing hurdles in roll out of scheme due to outstanding arrears on Government/Local body owned connections. MEDA supported the Prayers of MSEDCL.
4. Considering the submission on record and the pleadings, the Commission directed as follows:
  - (a) MSEDCL to implead appropriate Government Departments / Local Bodies as party to this matter and serve the copy of this Petition on them.
  - (b) MSEDCL to provide last three years arrears position for PWW, Street Lights, Office's connections in the name of Government, Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council and Gram Panchayat. Efforts taken by MSEDCL to recover such arrears shall also be submitted.
  - (c) MSEDCL in consultation with MEDA shall submit broad plan of solarization of these connections and its impact on MSEDCL's sales.
  - (d) In addition to (c) above, MEDA in consultation with MSEDCL shall submit its say on the possibility of behind the meter and/or off-grid Solar PV installation along with its advantages and disadvantages (if any).

MSEDCL and MEDA to file their replies on above issues within one month from the date of Order. Copy of such replies shall be served on parties to be impleaded by MSEDCL. All parties may file their replies, if any, within two weeks thereafter.

**Subsequent to receipt of above submissions, next date of hearing will be intimated by the Secretariat of the Commission.**

Sd/-  
**(Mukesh Khullar)**  
**Member**

Sd/-  
**(I. M. Bohari)**  
**Member**

Sd/-  
**(Sanjay Kumar)**  
**Chairperson**