

## THE ELECTRICITY RULES, 2005\*

*In exercise of powers conferred by section 176 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:-*

**1. Short title and commencement.-** (1) These rules shall be called THE ELECTRICITY RULES, 2005,

(2) These rules shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

**2. Definitions.-** In these rules, unless the context otherwise, requires:-

(a) “Act” means the Electricity Act, 2003;

(b) the words and expression used and not defined herein but defined in the Act shall have the meaning assigned to them in the Act.

**3. Requirements of captive generating plant.-** (1) No power plant shall qualify as a “captive generating plant” under section 9 read with clause (8) of section 2 of the Act unless-

(a) in case of a power plant-

(i) not less than twenty six percent of the ownership is held by the captive user (s), and

(ii) not less than fifty one percent of the aggregate electricity generated in such plant, determined on an annual basis, is consumed for the captive use:

Provided that in case of power plant set up by registered co-operative society, the conditions mentioned under paragraphs at (i) and (ii) above shall be satisfied collectively by the members of the co-operative society:

Provided further that in case of association of persons, the captive user (s) shall hold not less than twenty six percent of the ownership of the plant in aggregate and such captive user (s) shall consume not less than fifty one percent of the electricity generated, determined on an annual basis, in proportion to their shares in ownership of the power plant within a variation not exceeding ten percent;

(b) In case of a generating station owned by a company formed as special purpose vehicle for such generating station, a unit or units of such generating station identified for captive use and not the entire generating station satisfy (s) the conditions contained in paragraphs (i) and (ii) of sub-clause (a) above including-

Explanation.- (1) The electricity required to be consumed by captive users shall be determined with reference to such generating unit or units in aggregate identified for captive use and not with reference to generating station as a whole; and

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\*Vide G.S.R. 379(E), dated 8-6-2005, published in the Gazette of India, Ext., Pt. II, S.3 (i) dated 8-6-2005.

(2) the equity shares to be held by the captive user(s) in the generating station shall not be less than twenty six percent of the proportionate of the equity of the company related to the generating unit or units identified as the captive generating plant.

*Illustration.* - In a generating station with two units of 50 MW each, namely, Units A and B, one unit of 50 MW, namely, Unit A may be identified as the Captive Generating Plant. The captive users shall hold not less than thirteen percent of the equity shares in the company (being the twenty six percent proportionate to Unit A of 50 MW) and not less than fifty one percent of the electricity generated in Unit A determined on an annual basis is to be consumed by the captive users.

(2) It shall be the obligation of the captive users to ensure that the consumption by the captive users at the percentages mentioned in sub-clauses (a) and (b) of sub-rule (1) above is maintained and in case the minimum percentage of captive use is not complied with in any year, the entire electricity generated shall be treated as if it is a supply of electricity by a generating company.

*Explanation.* - (1) For the purpose of this rule,-

(a) “annual basis” shall be determined based on a financial year;

(b) “captive user” shall mean the end user of the electricity generated in a Captive Generating Plant and the term “captive use” shall be constructed accordingly;

(c) “ownership” in relation to a generating station or power plant set up by a company or any other body corporate shall mean the equity share capital with voting rights. In other cases ownership shall mean proprietary interest and control over the generating station or power plant;

(d) “Special Purpose Vehicle” shall mean a legal entity owning operating and maintaining a generating station and with no other business or activity to be engaged in by the legal entity.

**4. Distribution system.**- The distribution system of a distribution licensee in terms of sub-section (19) of section 2 of the Act shall also include electric line, sub-station and electrical plant that are primarily maintained for the purpose of distributing electricity in the area of supply of such distribution licensee notwithstanding that such line, sub-station or electrical plant are high pressure cables or overhead lines or associated with such high pressure cables or overhead lines; or used incidentally for the purposes of transmitting electricity for others.

**5. Compliance with the directions by transmission Licensee.**- (1) The National Load Despatch Centre, Regional Load Despatch Centre, as the case may be, or the State Load Despatch Centre, may, under section 26, sub-section (3) of section 28, sub-section (1) of section 29, sub-section (2) of section 32 and sub-section (1) of section 33 read with clause (b) of section 40 of the Act, give such directions, as it may consider appropriate

for maintaining the availability of the transmission system of a Transmission Licensee and the Transmission Licensee shall duly comply with all such directions.

(2) The Appropriate Commission, on an application filed by the National Load Despatch Centre, the Regional Load Despatch Centre or the State Load Despatch Centre and after hearing the Transmission Licensee, if satisfied that the Transmission Licensee has persistently failed to maintain the availability of the transmission system, may issue such directions to the National Load Despatch Centre, the Regional Load Despatch Centre or the State Load Despatch Centre to take control of the operations of the transmission system of such Transmission Licensee for such period and on such terms, as the Commission may decide.

(3) The direction under sub-rules (1) and (2) above shall be without prejudice to any other action which may be taken against the Transmission Licensee under other provisions of the Act.

**6. The surcharge under section 38.-** The surcharge on transmission charges under section 38, the manner of progressive reduction of such surcharge and the manner of payment and utilization of such surcharge to be specified by the Central Commission under sub-clause (ii) of clause (d) of sub-section (2) of section 38 shall be in accordance with surcharge on the charges for wheeling, the manner of progressive reduction of such surcharge and the manner of payment and utilization of such surcharge as may be specified by the Appropriate Commission of the State in which the consumer is located under sub-section (2) of section 42 of the Act.

**7. Consumer Redressal Forum and Ombudsman.-**<sup>1</sup>[(1) the distribution licensee shall established a Forum for Redressal of Grievances of Consumers under sub-section (5) of section 42 which shall consist of officers of the licensee. The Appropriate Commission shall nominate one independent member who is familiar with the consumer affairs:

Provided that the manner of appointment and the qualification and experience of the persons to be appointed as member of the Forum and the procedure of dealing with the grievances of the consumers by the Forum and other similar matters would be as per the guidelines specified by the State Commission.]

(2) The Ombudsman to be appointed or designated by the State Commission under sub-section (6) of section 42 of the Act shall be such person as the State Commission may be decided from time to time.

(3) The Ombudsman shall consider the representations of the consumers consistent with the provisions of the Act, the Rules and Regulations made hereunder or general orders or directions given by Appropriate Government or the Appropriate Commission in this regard before settling their grievances.

(4) (a) The Ombudsman shall prepare a report on a six monthly basis giving details of the nature of the grievance of the consumer dealt by the ombudsman, the response of the Licensees in the redressal of the grievances and the opinion of the

Ombudsman on the licensee's compliance of the standards of performance as specified by the Commission under section 57 of the Act during the preceding six months.

(b) The report under sub-clause (a) above shall be forwarded to the State Commission and the State Government within 45 days after the end of the relevant period of six months.

**8. Tariffs of generating companies under section. 79.-** The tariff determined by the Central Commission for generating companies under clause (a) or (b) of sub-section (1) of section 79 of the Act shall not be subject to re-determination by the State Commission in exercise of functions under clauses (a) or (b) of sub-section (1) of section 86 of the Act and subject to the above the State Commission may determine whether a Distribution Licensee in the State should enter into Power Purchase Agreement or procurement process with such generating companies based on the tariff determined by the Central Commission.

**9. Inter state trading licence.-** A licence issued by the Central Commission under section 14 read with clause (e) of sub-section (1) of section 79 of the Act to an electricity trader for Inter-State Operations shall also entitle such electricity trader to undertake purchase of electricity from a seller in a State and resell such electricity to a buyer in the same State, without the need to take a separate licence for intra-State trading from the State Commission of such State.

**10. Appeal to the Appellate Tribunal.-** In terms of sub-section (2) of section 111 of the Act, the Appeal against the orders passed by the adjudicating officer or the appropriate commission after the coming into force of the Act may be filed within forty – five days from the date, as notified by the Central Government, on which the Appellate comes into operation.

**11. Jurisdiction of the courts –** The Jurisdiction of Courts other than the special Courts shall not be barred under sub-section (1) of section 154 till such time the special Court is constituted under sub-section (1) of section 153 of the Act.

**12. Cognizance of the offence.-** (1) The police shall take cognizance of the offence punishable under the Act on a complaint in writing made to the police by the Appropriate Government or the Appropriate Commission or any of their officer authorized by them in this regard or Chief Electrical Inspector or an Electrical Inspector or an authorized officer of Licensee or a Generating Company, as the case may be.

(2) The police shall investigate the complaint in accordance with the general law applicable to the investigation of any complaint. For the purposes of investigation of the complaint the police shall have all the powers as available under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974)

(3) The police shall, after investigation, forward the report alongwith the complaint filed under sub-clause (1) to the Court for trial under the Act.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-clause (1), (2) and (3) above, the complaint for taking cognizance of an offence punishable under the Act, may also be filed by the Appropriate Government or the Appropriate Commission or any of the their officer authorized by them or a Chief Electrical Inspector or an Electrical Inspector or an authorized officer of licensee or a Generating Company, as the case may be, directly in the appropriate Court.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), every special Court may take cognizance of an offence referred to in sections 139 to 135 of the Act without the accuse being committed to it for trial.

(6) The cognizance of the offence under the Act shall not in any way prejudice the actions under the provision of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860)

**13. Issue of orders and practice directions.-** The Central Government may from time to time issues orders and practice directions in regard to the implementation of these rules and matters incidental or ancillary thereto as the Central Government may consider appropriate.

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