Before the

MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

13th Floor, Centre No.1, World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai- 400 005
Tel: 022 22163964/65/69 Fax: 022 22163976
E-mail: mercindia@merc.gov.in
Website: www.merc.gov.in / www.mercindia.org.in

Case No. 77 of 2013

In the matter of

Petition filed by (i) Yashwant Sahakari Glucose Karkhana Ltd. (ii) Shri Tradco Deesan Pvt. Ltd. (iii) Honest Derivatives Pvt. Ltd. for grid connectivity of a Captive Power Generation Plant and authentication of generated units by MSEDCL for REC benefits.

Smt. Chandra Iyengar, Chairperson
Shri Vijay L. Sonavane, Member
Shri Azeez M. Khan, Member

1. M/s. Yashwant Sahakari Glucose Karkhana Limited
2. Shri Tradco Deesan Private Limited
3. M/s. Honest Derivatives Private Limited ……. Petitioners

V/s

1. Maharashtra State Load Dispatch Centre
2. Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd.
3. Maharashtra Energy Development Agency ...…. Respondents

Present at the hearing(s):

Representatives for the Petitioners	:	Shri. A. S. Naik, Petitioner -1 Shri Rajratan Agarwal, Petitioner -2 Shri Rajiv Arora, Petitioner -3.
Representatives for the Respondents	:	Shri. A.S. Ghogare, MSEDCL Shri J. R. Kulkarni, MSLDC Dr. J.V. Torane, MEDA
Authorized Consumer Representative	:	Dr. Ashok Pendse, TBIA

ORDER

Dated: 31st July, 2014

M/s. Yashwant Sahakari Glucose Karkhana Ltd., M/s Shri Tradco Deesan Pvt. Ltd. and M/s. Honest Derivatives Pvt. Ltd. filed a Petition before the Commission on 5 June, 2013, seeking grid connectivity of their Captive Power Generation Plants (CPPs) and authentication of generated units by Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (MSEDCL) for obtaining Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) benefits.

2. Prayers of the Petitioners are as follows:

" *i) The Respondent be directed to grant Grid connectivity and be further directed to carry out joint meter reading and to authenticate the same regularly as per REC requirements.*

ii) All other just and equitable reliefs be granted to the Petitioner for the effective adjudication of this Case."

3. The facts of the Case as stated in the Petition as follows:

3.1 The Petitioners are engaged in the manufacture of starch and glucose in Sangli, Dhule and Jalgaon Districts respectively. The Petitioners have set up 1.063 MW biogas-based CPPs at their factory site. Erection of Petitioner No.1's plant is completed and generation has started since 10 April, 2013. Erection of Petitioner No. 2's plant is yet to be completed, and Petitioner No.3's plant is completed and generation has started since 15 March, 2013.

3.2 The Petitioners have obtained HT electricity connection from MSEDCL. They intend to have their projects registered under the REC mechanism. However, unless their CPPs are connected to the Licensee's grid, they cannot be accredited and registered under the REC mechanism. There are no guidelines on Joint Meter Reading (JMR) for claiming the RECs from electricity generated by CPPs.

3.3 Petitioner No.1 contacted the concerned office of MSEDCL and requested it to grant the grid connectivity, and also to cooperate for taking JMR and authenticate it to make the project eligible under REC mechanism. However, vide letter dated 18 March, 2013, MSEDCL informed Petitioner No.1 to submit the accreditation certificate and registration certificate for REC mechanism. Moreover, MSEDCL mentioned that LT supply sides of the Petitioner's transformers are not under MSEDCL's jurisdiction.

3.4 The Petitioners contend that MSEDCL has overlooked the legal mandate laid down by Electricity Act (EA), 2003 for taking measures conducive to development of the electricity industry. They have referred to Section 86(e) of EA, 2003, Clause 5.2.20 of the National Electricity Policy, 2005, Clause 6.3 and 6.4 of the Tariff Policy and Government of Maharashtra's Policy to promote renewable energy sources. Over the last 15-20 years, the State Government has

made efforts to promote renewable energy by encouraging private sector investment. However, on the other hand MSEDCL is discouraging private generation by one means or another.

3.5 The Petitioners have set up the biogas generation plants for their own use and do not intend to carry out any business which will compete with MSEDCL. A statutory duty has been cast upon the Commission under Section 86(e) to promote generation of electricity from renewable sources of energy by providing suitable measures for connectivity with the grid. The following provisions of law are also applicable to the present Petition:

a. Preamble of EA, 2003
b. Sections 9, 86(c), 86(e)
c. Regulations Nos. 92 to 94 of the MERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2004.

4. In its Reply dated 16 July, 2013, MSEDCL has stated that:

4.1 MSEDCL has always promoted Renewable Energy (RE) generation in the State. It has no objection to the generation and utilization of the power generated by 1.063 MW biogas plant in the factory premises of the Petitioners for captive use.

4.2 The Petitioners seek grid connectivity on the LT side in their premises, which is not under the jurisdiction of MSEDCL. Moreover, guidelines regarding grid connectivity on the LT distribution network have not yet been put in place. Hence, meter reading and issuance of energy injection report for the REC claim in this case is not feasible. The Petitioners were requested to avail of grid connectivity at levels of 11 kV and above at several meetings. There are also various operational and technical constraints relating to grid connectivity on LT side.

4.3 MSEDCL referred to the functions, roles and responsibilities of entities involved as per the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) REC procedure dated 9 November, 2010. If any guidelines of CERC, MERC or Central Electricity Authority (CEA) regarding the grid connectivity on LT network are formulated, MSEDCL would implement them provided they are techno-commercially feasible.

4.4 As the data needs to be certified by the Maharashtra State Load Despatch Centre (MSLDC), its comments and those of the Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA) may be sought on the prayers of the Petitioners.

4.5 MSEDCL has no objections to the Petitioners generating and injecting the RE power from their biogas projects in their own LT network for self-consumption. It is issuing the energy injection report based on the meter reading to all the RE generators eligible for REC as per National Load Despatch Centre (NSLDC) guidelines.

5. The matter was heard on 16 July, 2013. The Petitioners requested the Commission to direct MSEDCL to grant grid connectivity for their biogas-based CPPs. MSEDCL referred to its submission dated 16 July, 2013. After hearing the parties, the Commission directed the Petitioners to implead MEDA and the MSLDC as parties. Further, the Commission's Director (EE) was directed to look into the technical issues involved and ascertain the current status of the relevant draft CEA Regulations.

6. In their amended Petition filed on 25 July, 2013, the Petitioners submitted as follows:

6.1 They are ready to implement any changes suggested after the technical review in the infrastructure set up for generation and synchronization of the RE based generation projects.

6.2 The Petitioners are ready to install the metering system for Joint Meter Reading (JMR) as per MSEDCL's suggestion in order to issue energy injection report as per the NLDC guidelines. The Petitioners are requesting grid connectivity and JMR, but MSEDCL is denying grid connectivity. The Petitioners do not agree with MSEDCL's contention that meter reading and the grid connectivity on the LT side is not in its jurisdiction. They also referred to a case in Gujarat for claiming REC having similar connectivity to the grid.

6.3 The Petitioners contended that, even though the generator is connected on LT side, the export of power into the grid is possible from the existing infrastructure. Power exported to the grid is at 33 KV only through 33 KV transformers of the Petitioners. Hence, their existing transformers can be considered as Generator Transformers connected to the grid. The Petitioners are ready not to claim any compensation for such power injected into the grid. They are also ready to follow any future guidelines of CEA.

7. On 24 July, 2013, MEDA submitted as follows:

7.1 Clause No. 3.1 of CERC's procedure under the REC mechanism dated 9 November, 2010 provides that a RE generating company is eligible under REC mechanism subject to the grid connectivity, and clause No. 4.1(e) provides for this subject to proper metering arrangements.

7.2 As per Regulation 4.2 of MERC (RPO- REC) Regulations, 2010, the minimum capacity of the grid-connected projects is to be 250 KW or such other minimum capacity as specified by CERC time to time. As per these Regulations, the responsibility of the grid connection and metering arrangements rest with the concerned generator and Distribution Licensee in the cluster area of the project.

8. In their Rejoinder dated 3 August, 2013, the Petitioners have stated that:

8.1 They are ready to implement guidelines suggested by the Committee with regard to grid connectivity and install the metering arrangements for JMR as per the MSLDC's suggestions for issue of energy injection report as per the NLDC guidelines. MSEDCL follows a similar practice for co-generation plants, particularly in sugar factories, for taking readings for self-consumption as well as auxiliary consumption for submission to MSLDC for issuance of REC. Similar metering arrangement is being done in the Petitioners' industry for generation of energy as well as measurement of energy for self-use and auxiliary consumption.

8.2 The point of connection with MSEDCL grid would be only at 33 KV voltage level. The Petitioners are ready to follow any future guidelines which may be issued by CEA and comply with all inspections, tests, calibrations and maintenance requirements as per the CEA draft Regulations.

9. In its additional submission dated 3 August, 2013, MSEDCL stated that:

Guidelines regarding the grid connectivity at LT distribution network are not yet established. The operational and technical issues and difficulties involved in providing grid connectivity on LT side are as follows:

9.1 <u>Connectivity:</u>

i) Clause 2.1(p) of the MERC (RE Tariff) Regulations, 2010 defines interconnection point as "*interface point of renewable energy generating facility with the transmission system or distribution system, as the case the case may be".*

The Petitioners can connect the CPP to the transmission or distribution network. Feasibility of connectivity to LT system (433V) of the adjoining distribution network needs to be explored. Also, the reliability of supply/evacuation at LT feeders could be a concern, besides line loss and cost of long LT line.

ii) Draft CEA (Technical Standards for Connectivity of the Distributed Generation Resources) Regulations, 2010 are yet to be finalized. The draft does not recognize connection to installations/facilities owned and within premises of the consumer.

iii) Depending upon the voltage level for grid connectivity, the provisions of the draft CEA Regulations or State Grid Code Regulations would be made applicable.

iv) Connectivity at distribution network as per the Standard of Performance (SOP) Regulations would be executed between the generator and the host Distribution licensee and the user of such energy. Presently, no guidelines are available regarding connectivity agreement.

v) It is suggested that verification/certification of the configuration of CPP installation and connectivity arrangements be done by the Electrical Inspector before commissioning so as to standardize them, and the protocol

for monitoring and third party verification for installation may be in line with provisions of the EA,-2003 and the Indian Electricity Rules 1956 and 2005.

9.2 Metering Arrangements:

i) The metering arrangement should be as per the CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006. The State Commission may specify metering arrangements through the metering code as a part of Grid Code, since the custody and responsibility of reading 'internal' meters for measuring self-consumption is of prime importance.

ii) As far as possible, single meter with separate registry for export/import may be made applicable. Single metering is recommended; hence the metering location should be at the interconnection point.

iii) In order to schedule the power, the metering arrangement should be equipped with real time communication facility, and the meter meet the criteria specified in the CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006.

9.3 Energy Accounting:

Line Losses should be accounted for as per the State Grid code and MERC Orders.

9.4 Scheduling Requirements:

Scheduling must be compulsory.

9.5 Recovery of Administration Cost:

i) The host Distribution Licensee may be permitted to recover administrative costs associated with JMR/ credit note issuance.

ii) Annual administrative charges for the next financial year would be recovered before the start of financial year.

9.6 Reactive Energy:

i) The generators could draw reactive energy from the system. As excess drawal of reactive energy will affect the system stability and voltage, this should be taken care of by the Commission.

ii) The grid requires active as well as reactive power. As such, the appropriate reactive power compensation charges should be levied.

9.7 Operational issues in case connectivity is allowed at LT distribution network of host utility:

i) For the breakdown / shutdown in the LT network, no benefit of deemed generation will be given by the host Distribution Licensee. The CPP holder will have to bear the costs of such deemed generation.

ii) MSEDCL is ready to implement Policies/Regulations decided by various statutory authorities such as MNRE/CEA/CERC/MERC, etc. provided that they are techno-commercially feasible.

iii) The CPP holder must maintain the grid standards regarding voltage profile, harmonic and DC current injection, introduction of flicker at HT level or LT level, as the case may be.

iv) In case of LT system, the ceiling for maximum power that can be evacuated is not specified. The LT generators have to install proper and adequate protection equipment to avoid reverse power flow and consequent accidents.

v) Synchronizing on LT level is complicated as the voltage on the LT side fluctuates more and the three phase load is not balanced. In the absence of load, the evacuation of power may not be possible. This can result in over-voltage of the LT grid.

vi) In case of grid connectivity of 11 KV and above, the generator is connected to the grid through express feeder. Hence, there is a continuous corridor available for evacuation of generated power. The LT feeders are subjected to load shedding depending on the category. The load shedding on agriculture LT feeders is up to 12 Hours. In such cases, the LT feeder may not be available for evacuation of power.

vii) MSEDCL is ready to implement any guidelines/procedures that may be issued by the Commission guidelines/procedures for grant of LT connectivity, metering, billing, accounting and certification of energy generated by such captive power plants installed in the same premises if they are techno-commercially feasible.

10. At the hearing on 5 August, 2013, Director (EE), MERC, after consultations held since the last hearing, made a presentation and elaborated on the issues related to the grid connectivity of the Petitioners' CPP. The Commission directed MSEDCL to study the grid connectivity provisions made in similar cases by Distribution Licensees in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu and submit its recommendations within a month.

11. The matter was again heard on 30 October, 2013. MSEDCL submitted that it has asked MSLDC to clarify "whether metering arrangement on LT is possible to avail REC benefits, as requested by the Petitioners." MSLDC has clarified that, as per REC Regulations, JMR is to be provided by MSEDCL. The MSEDCL sought two weeks time to study the CEA (Technical Standards for Connectivity of the Distributed Generation Resources) Regulation, 2013 notified on 30 September 2013. The Commission also asked the Petitioners, MSLDC and MSEDCL to study whether the Petitioners, having CPP connected on LT side of the network, is eligible for RECs as per MERC and CERC Regulations. The Commission also directed MSLDC to convene a meeting with the Petitioners, MSEDCL and MEDA to discuss the various issues regarding implementation of CEA (Technical Standards for Connectivity of the Distributed Generation Resources) Regulation, 2013 and other REC related issues and submit its the report in a month.

12. Vide letter dated 25 November, 2013, the MSLDC submitted, following a meeting on 20 November, 2013 with the Petitioners, MSEDCL and MEDA, that:

i) According to the Petitioners, they are MSEDCL consumers connected to the grid through 33/0.40 kV transformer. There is a tariff meter at 33 kV side of the transformer installed by MSEDCL. The Petitioners have generator connected at 0.40 kV voltage level and the load is also connected to 0.40 kV voltage level.

ii) CERC's REC Regulations provide that only grid-connected RE generators are eligible for REC. The term 'grid', as defined in EA, 2003 is a 'high voltage' backbone system of interconnected transmission lines, substations and generating plants.

iii) At present, the generators with co-generation arrangements availing REC have generation and self-consumption at 11 kV or higher voltage level, and the generators are connected to the grid through a transformer (say 11/132 kV).

iv)The Petitioners claim that their generator is connected to the grid at 33 kV voltage level through existing 33/0.4 kV transformer (metering interface), and seek connectivity at 33 kV. The direct connection of the generator is at 0.4 kV, which is classified as 'low voltage' level as per the Commission's SoP Regulations.

v) In all CPP cases, even though the interface point (where the utility meter is located) may be at the HV side of the transformer, self-consumption, auxiliary consumption and gross generation measurement of such plant is bound to be at LV side. Such an interface is not defined in any Regulations.

vi) MSLDC emphasizes that, in case such generators (directly connected at 0.4 KV or less) are allowed to become eligible for REC, it could open a floodgate of applications from very small distributed RE generators like solar rooftop projects.

13. MSEDCL's additional submission dated 29 November, 2013 states that:

13.1 As per the procedure for submission of data to MSLDC for REC, only the grid-connected RE generators are eligible for REC. As per the EA, 2003, 'grid' means the high voltage backbone system of inter-connected transmission lines, sub-station and generating plants. In Clause 2(t) of MERC's SoP Regulations, 2005, 'high voltage' is defined as the voltage which is not less than 650 V and not more than 33kV.

13.2 MSEDCL does not have any objection to generation and utilization of the power generated by 1.063 MW biogas plant in the factory premises of the Petitioners for captive use at LT level as a stand-alone system.

13.3 The Petitioner No. 1 has requested grid connectivity through its 3.5MVA, 33/0.4 kV transformer, which is a common transformer for drawal of energy from the

grid for its sanctioned contract demand and injection of energy generated by its CPP into the grid. Further, self-consumption by eligible captive power producers is deemed to be injected into the grid as per the amended Regulation 7 of CERC (REC) Regulations, 2010.

13.4 Self-consumption of a captive power producer and auxiliary consumption of its generation plant is at LT level. Hence, the meter reading needs to be taken at HT level as well as LT level in order to calculate self-consumption of the CPP.

13.5 The CEA (Technical Standards for Connectivity of the Distributed Generation Resources) Regulations, 2013 are applicable to the generating resources connected to the electricity system at voltage level below 33 kV.

13.6 There are various operational and technical constraints relating to connectivity on LT side. The Petitioners were requested to avail of grid connectivity on 11 kV and above level using separate generation transformer, at various meetings.

13.7 If any guidelines of CERC/MERC/CEA regarding grid connectivity/connectivity on LT network and joint meter reading are formulated, MSEDCL is ready to implement them provided they are techno-commercially feasible.

13.8 The comments of MSLDC and MEDA need to be considered. MSEDCL is issuing the energy injection report based on the metering provided at high voltage level to all the RE generators eligible for REC as per NLDC guidelines.

14. At the hearing on 7 January, 2014, MSEDCL reiterated its submission dated 25 November, 2013, stating that only the grid-connected RE generators are to be eligible for REC and referred again to the definition of the term "grid". For self-consumption, there are no directly applicable Regulatory provisions. Petitioners stated that all conditions in the connectivity standards issued by CEA would be complied with. Shri Ashok Pendse (for Thane-Belapur Industries Association (TBIA), Authorized Consumer Representative) requested the Commission to consider the connectivity-related issues for other renewable energy sources, such as solar rooftop projects, also.

15. The Commission directed that a Committee under its Director (EE) and including representatives from MSLDC, MSEDCL, MEDA, the Petitioners, the participating Consumer Representative and representative from renewable energy Associations look into the connectivity-related issues of RE sources in line with the CEA Regulations. The Committee would also look into the technical and commercial issues involved and submit its report to the Commission within 45 days.

16. Vide letter dated 16 January, 2014, the approved Terms of Reference (ToR) were made available to the Committee Members. The Committee met on 24 January, 2014 and 10 February, 2014. The Members suggested that its scope should be

limited to only the Petitioners' grid-connected Captive Renewable Energy Projects. The Committee also sought two more weeks, and submitted its report on "Grid Connectivity related issues of Renewable Energy Sources" to the Commission on 18 March, 2014. At the hearing on 3 July, 2014, Director (EE), MERC summarized the recommendations of the Committee, with which the Commission noted that all the parties concerned, through their representatives on the Committee, were in agreement.

17. The issue-wise recommendations of the Committee are as follow:

17.1 Technical issues of grid connectivity of RE sources:

i) Connectivity and interconnection points

1) Connectivity should be in accordance with the MERC (Standards of Performance of Distribution Licensees, Period for Giving Supply and Determination of Compensation) Regulations, 2005 and clause 2.1(j) of MERC (RPO-REC) Regulations, 2010.

Wherever applicable, the CEA (Technical Standards for connectivity of the Distributed Generation Resources) Regulations, 2013 must be complied with. The provisions regarding voltage level and corresponding load limit under the Commission's SoP Regulations, 2005 are as below:

Voltage level	**Load Limit under SoP Regulations, 2005**
LT 1 ph	40 Amp
LT 3 Ph	>40 Amp to 80kW / 100 kVA in all area
	>40 Amp to 150 kW / 187 kVA in Municipal Corporation area
11 / 22 kV	>80 kW / 100 kVA to 1500 kVA
22 kV	1500 KVA to 3000 KVA
33 kV	1500 kVA to 5000 kVA
EHV	> 5000 kVA

2) However, MSEDCL submitted that in case of 11 KV and above connectivity, the generator should be connected to the electricity system through express feeder. Hence there would be a continuous corridor available for evacuation of generated power. The LT feeders are subjected to Load shedding depending on the various categories. The load shedding on agriculture LT feeders is upto 12 hours a day. In such cases, the LT feeder may not be available for evacuation of power.

3) The interface point with the distribution network for the Petitioners should remain at 33 KV level as specified in the Regulations. However,

self-consumption, auxiliary consumption and gross generation measurement of such plants should be on the LV side.

4) The evacuation cost up to the inter-connection point should be borne by the RE Generator. The RE Captive Generator should bear the additional cost of evacuation arrangements for such grid-connected systems.

5) Verification/certification of the configuration of CPP installation and connectivity arrangements should be done by the Electrical Inspector before commissioning, as per prevailing practices, for the purpose of standardization.

ii) Metering arrangements

1) The meters should meet the criteria specified in the CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006.

2) Meters should be capable of reading gross energy generation, auxiliary consumption, self-consumption and separate metering for import and export of power.

3) Metering arrangements for the purpose of REC should be in line with the MSLDC-approved procedure, i.e. "Procedure for submission of data to MSLDC for Renewable Energy Certificate". Hence, the Special Energy Meters (ABT compliant) must be provided by the CPP.

4) The metering system should comply with the CERC Regulations and MERC (REC-RPO) Regulations, 2010.

iii) Energy Accounting

1) The concerned Distribution Licensee should undertake JMR (along with the RE Generator), and maintain energy accounting information of such Generator on a monthly basis.

2) Line Losses must be accounted for as per the State Grid Code and relevant MERC Orders. The Generator should also provide metering arrangements for the measurement of transformer losses.

iv) Reactive Energy drawal limits and issues related to harmonics, DC current injection etc.

These should be in line with the relevant Commission Orders on non-fossil fuel based Co-generation projects and CEA (Technical Standards for connectivity of Distributed Generation Resources) Regulations, 2013.

v) Safety measures and protection system

The generator should comply with the CEA (Measures Relating to Safety and Electrical Supply) Regulations, 2010 for the purpose of safety, as specified under clause 5(6) of the CEA (Technical Standards for Connectivity of the Distributed Generation Resources) Regulations, 2013.

vi) Third party sale of LT connected RE projects

The Committee's guidelines may be applied only to RE CPPs. For third party sale, the MERC Distribution Open Access Regulations, 2005 should be made applicable.

vii) Eligibility and Registration for Certification

1) In accordance with the CERC (Terms and Conditions for recognition and issuance of REC) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2013, in case of RE sources-based co-generation plants, the connected load capacity as assessed or sanctioned by the Distribution Licensee should be considered as the capacity for captive consumption for issue of certificates, irrespective of the capacity of such plants covered under the Power Purchase Agreement.

2) Certification of connected load or sanctioned load by the Distribution Licensee should be submitted to MEDA while applying for accreditation.

17.2 Review of existing LT grid connectivity provisions for RE projects in other States

The Committee noted that, except for solar projects, connectivity for CPPs has been stipulated only at HT level in different States.

17.3 Defining roles and responsibilities of parties, and devising information protocols for connectivity of RE Projects at appropriate voltage level in line with CEA (Technical Standards for Connectivity of the Distributed Generation Resources) Regulations, 2013.

With regard to the REC mechanism, the generating company, Distribution Licensees and MSLDC should comply with the CERC (REC) Regulations, 2010 and NLDC's detailed REC procedure.

17.4 Commercial Issues:

i) Recovery of administrative costs associated with JMR, credit note issuance

Such costs may be fixed in accordance with MERC Regulations, Orders or MSEDCL policy, as the case may be.

ii) Reactive Energy Charges:

Such charges would be as per MERC Orders and Regulations.

iii) Parallel operating charges, penalties or incentives

The RE Generator should pay parallel operating charges/ transmission charges/ any other charges related to parallel operation as may be decided by the Commission from time to time or MSEDCL's prevailing norms, as the case may be.

iv) Terms and Conditions for inter-connections for various RE sources

The terms and conditions for inter-connections for various RE sources should be as per the prevailing practices of the Distribution Licensees.

18. Commission's observations and rulings:

18.1 Noting the oral and written submissions of the Petitioners and other parties concerned, the Commission had framed the relevant Terms of Reference to be addressed jointly by them along with the Commission's Director (EE). Having considered it, the Commission accepts the Report, submitted through the Director (EE) on 18 March, 2014, and its recommendations as setting out the principles, guidelines and modalities on the basis of which the technical, commercial and other issues arising in the Petitioners' and similar cases can be viably addressed. These recommendations, summarized at para. 17 of this Order and elaborated in the Committee's Report, build on existing legal, regulatory and other dispensations. The Commission directs that the Petitioners' and similar cases be resolved accordingly by all the parties concerned.

18.2 The Commission notes that the Report refers to the view expressed by the MSLDC representative on the Committee that the present case "may be considered as isolated one as it could attract large number of applications". However, the Commission is of the view that applying the dispensation approved in this case only to the Petitioners would be discriminatory and untenable, and cannot be justified.

18.3 The Committee's Report is annexed to this Order. Considering its generic applicability to such cases, the Commission directs MSEDCL and MEDA to upload its full text on their websites for wider public access.

18.4 The Commission commends all concerned for their contributions to the Report.

With these directions and observations, Case No. 77 of 2013 stands disposed of.

Sd/-	**Sd/-**	**Sd/-**
(Azeez M. Khan)	**(Vijay L. Sonavane)**	**(Chandra Iyengar)**
Member	**Member**	**Chairperson**