

**KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY  
COMMISSION THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

**Present : Adv. A.J Wilson, Member (Law)**

**File No. 1795/Con(T)/2022/KSERC**

In the matter of : Petition seeking approval of the proposal of KSEB Ltd to introduce Cash handling charges @ 1% to promote online payment of current charges & increase the application fee @2% to those consumers who avail service of KSEB through paper files, except BPL/ Agricultural category in connection with GoK directives and ease of doing business.

Petitioner : M/s Kerala State Electricity Board Limited

**Order dated 22-11-2022**

1. Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd (herein after referred as M/s KSEB Ltd or petitioner) had filed a petition dated 12.07.2022 before the Commission with the following prayers;

*“It is humbly prayed before the Hon. Commission that necessary amendments may please be made in the Kerala Electricity Supply Code 2014 to introduce Cash handling charges @1% of the bill amount (excluding arrears if any) to consumers other than Agricultural and subsidized category, to achieve 100% online payment, by discouraging cash payments of current charges and to exempt application fees for those consumers and new applicants who opt for online services in respect of Single Phase Domestic Connections. It is also prayed to allow KSEBL to collect 2% extra over and above the prevailing notified application fee for those consumers who avail services of KSEBL not through online mode except for domestic consumers under BPL Category and Agricultural Consumers.”*

2. In the meanwhile, KSEB Ltd vide letter dated 06.08.2022, sought permission to withdraw the petition and submitted as follows.

*“Now, KSEBL considers to do a campaign to educate consumers to use digital platform and will take all actions to facilitate all options for payment through digital mode; instead of introducing cash handling charges. Therefore, it has been decided to withdraw the petition with the permission of the Hon’ble Commission. As directed by the Board, I am requesting to dispose of the petition as withdrawn and to reimburse the petition fee of Rs. 10000/- already paid or to adjust the same in future petitions to be filed.”*

3. The Commission has examined the matter in detail as per the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 and KSERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2003 and its amendments. As requested by the petitioner KSEB Ltd, the Commission decided to allow KSEB Ltd to withdraw the petition dated 12.07.2022 to impose

cash handling charges. However, the Commission reject the request of the KSEB Ltd to reimburse the petition fee amounting to Rs 10,000/- or to adjust the same in future petitions filed before the Commission, since there is no provision in the KSERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2003 and its amendments to reimburse the same in the case the petitioner as their own withdraws the same.

### **Orders of the Commission**

4. The Commission, after examining the petition filed by KSEB Ltd dated 12.07.2022 to impose the cash handling charges and also the request of the KSEB Ltd dated 06.08.2022 to withdraw the petition as per the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 and KSERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2003 and its amendments, orders the following,
- (1) Orders to dispose the petition dated 12.07.2022 as withdrawn as requested by KSEB Ltd in its letter dated 06.08.2022.
  - (2) Reject the request of KSEB Ltd to reimburse the petition fee amounting to Rs 10,000/- already paid or to adjust the same in the future petitions to be filed before the Commission.

Petition is disposed of. Ordered accordingly.

**Sd/-  
Adv. A J Wilson  
Member (Law)**

Approved for issue

**Sd/-  
C R Satheeshchandran  
Secretary**