

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Present : Shri T K Jose, Chairman
Shri B Pradeep, Member
Adv. A.J Wilson, Member

OP No: 69/2023

In the matter of : Approval of 'street light tariff and rate for providing service connection' for the Sabarimala festival season during 2023-24.

Petitioner : M/s KSEB Ltd

Order dated 27.12.2023

1. KSEB Ltd on 07/12/2023 has filed a petition before the Commission with a prayer to approve the estimate rates for providing temporary service connection and tariff for unmetered street lights for festive season at Sabarimala during 2023-24, for the recovery of expenditure under Section 46 of the Electricity Act 2023. KSEBL requested that, it may also be authorized to collect the applicable GST from the consumers based on the orders issued by the Government in this behalf from time to time.
2. The summary of the petition filed by KSEB Ltd is given below.
 - (i) The Commission having approving the street light tariff and service connection charges for the hill tracks at Sabarimala since the year 2008.KSEBL submitted that, they had estimated the service connection charges for the year 2023-24 is as done in previous years.
 - (ii) The estimate of rates for providing service connection as prepared as per the regulation 76, 81, 82, 88(5) and 89(6) of the supply code 2014.The base rates are adopted based on the cost data 2023 as per the petition OP No: 36/2023. The details of the rates arrived at Sabarimala for providing temporary connection and street lights for the year 2023-24 is given below.
 - (a) Cost of Materials
The cost of materials is as per the rates proposed in the Petition OP No: 36/2023 regarding the approval of Cost data
 - (b) Quantity of Materials
The quantity of materials is also same as in the petition filed by KSEB Ltd in the OP No: 36/2023 for approval of Cost data.
 - (c) Labour and Transportation cost
The labour and transportation cost is taken as 1.5 times the rates proposed in the petition OP No:36/2023 for approval of cost data 2023.The escalation in labour and Cost data was proposed considering the difficult terrain and also the difficulty in executing the work at Sabarimala.
 - (d) Conveyance cost

In earlier orders, the Commission has adopted an average distance of 2.5 KM of for head load while approving costa data. KSEB Ltd has proposed the same also in the instant petition. Considering the terrain and difficulty in executing the work at Sabarimala, 1.5 times the normal rate of head load are taken in the estimate.

- (e) Administrative Overhead Charges
As per the provision of supply code 2014, 10% of the labour and transportation cost is taken as administrative overhead charges.
- (f) GST
In the earlier Orders the Commission has allowed the GST as per the rules in addition to the approved cost data. Similar approach is taken for application of GST.
- (g) Street Light Tariff
The tariff of public lighting at Sabarimala is claimed based on the existing tariff Order dated 31/10/2023 in Petition OP No.18/2023 but considering the burning hours of street light as 14 hours/day.

Analysis and Decision of the Commission.

- (iii) The commission has examined the petition filed by KSEB Ltd for the approval of Cost data for estimating the rates for providing service connection at Sabarimala during the festival season of the year 2023-24, as per the provisions of the Electricity Act 2003, Kerala Electricity Supply Code 2014 and other relevant documents and records hereby decide as follows.
- (iv) The Sabarimala 'Mandalam and Makaravilakku' festival was started on 17 November 2023. Usually the temporary connection at Sabarimala is provided during the second week of November every year, i.e., before the commencement of Mandalam and Makaravilakku festival. However the instant petition was filed on 07.12.2023 i.e., after a gap of 20 days from the start of the festival season in Sabarimala in 2023-24.
- (v) KSEB Ltd has prepared the estimate rates for providing temporary connections at Sabarimala as per the cost of materials, quantity of materials and labour and transportation cost based on the rates proposed by KSEB Ltd in the petition OP No:36/2023 for the approval of Cost data for the year 2023. Though the Commission has conducted public hearing on the petition 36/2023 on 13.12.2023, it may take few more weeks to approve the cost data as per the Petition OP No:36/2023.
- (vi) The latest 'Cost Data' approved is as per the Order of the Commission dated 27.04.2018 in OA No.17/2017 and the same is still continuing.
- (vii) Based on the approval of Cost data for the year 2018-19, the Commission vide the Order dated 25.10.2018 had approved the rates for providing the separate connection at Sabarimala during the festival of the year 2018-19. The same rate was allowed to continue in the year 2019-20 and 2020-21 also.

But, KSEB has not filed any petition for approval of cost data for providing temporary connection at Sabarimala in the subsequent years of the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23. It is presumed that KSEB has been adopting the Cost data approved by the Commission wide the Order dated 25.10.2018 for providing temporary connection till the financial year 2022-23.

Under these circumstances the Commission hereby allow KSEB Ltd to adopt the estimate rates approved for providing service connections at Sabarimala for the festival season of 2018-19 vide the Order dated 25.10.2018 for providing service connection at Sabarimala for the financial year 2023-24 also.

- (viii) The Commission vide the Order dated 31.10.2023 had approved the composite street light tariff for the period from 01.11.2023 to 30.06.2024. In the said Order the Commission has approved the composite street light tariff with the maximum burning hours of 12 hours per day. However due to the hilly terrain and climatic reasons at Sabarimala, the street light is allowed to burn up to 14 hours per day during festival seasons instead of the maximum burning hours of 12 hours per day. Hence the street light tariff was proposed by KSEB Ltd for 14 hours per day by apportioning the approved composite street light tariff with burning hours of 12 hour per day. The street light tariff approved at Sabarimala for 2023-24, after verification is given as Annexure to this Order.

Orders of the Commission

- (ix) The Commission after examining the petition filed by KSEBL for the approval of cost data for estimating the rate for providing the service connection at Sabarimala and also the Street light tariff applicable for festival season for the financial year 2023-24 as per the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 and Kerala Electricity Supply Code 2014, hereby Orders the following;
- (1) KSEBL shall adopt the cost data for the year 2018-19 as approved by the Commission vide Order dated 27.04.2018 in Petition OA No: 17/2017 for providing service connection and street light for the festival season for financial year 2023-24 also.
- (2) KSEB Ltd shall adopt the street light tariff as per the annexure to this Order for the year 2023-24, at Sabarimala for the festival season for the year 2023-24.

The petition disposed of. Ordered accordingly.

Sd/-
T K Jose
Chairman

Sd/-
Adv. A J Wilson
Member

Sd/-
B Pradeep
Member

Approved for issue
Sd/-
C R Satheesh Chandran
Secretary

Annexure

Tariff for street lights at Sabarimala during Mandala Makaravilakku Festival during 2023-24 (LT VIII(A)-Composite tariff for unmetered street lights)			
Sl No	Type of Lamp	Rs/Lamp/month Burning Hours per day 12 Hours	Rs/Lamp/month Burning Hours per day 14 Hours
1	Fluorescent lamp 2X40 W	165	191
2	Sodium Vapour 250 W	552	644
3	Halogen Lamp 400 W	882	1029
4	CFL 11 W	20	23
5	CFL 14 W	26	30
6	CFL 15 W	27	32
7	CFL 18 W	32	37
8	CFL 22 W	40	47
9	CFL 30 W	54	63
10	CFL 36 W	66	77
11	CFL 44 W	79	92
12	CFL 72 W	130	152
13	CFL 144 W	259	302
14	LED 9 W	12	14
15	LED 12 W	17	20
16	LED 15 W	22	26
17	LED 18 W	25	29
18	LED 20 W	28	33
19	LED 24 W	37	43
20	LED 25 W	39	46
21	LED 30 W	47	55
22	LED 35 W	48	56
23	LED 40 W	56	65
24	LED 45 W	66	77
25	LED 70 W	98	114
26	LED 80 W	112	131
27	LED 110 W	153	179
28	LED 150 W	209	244