

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Present: Shri. Preman Dinaraj, Chairman
Adv. A.J. Wilson, Member

Date of Hearing: 30.11.2020

OP No 36/2020

In the matter of : Approval of Street light tariff and rate for providing service connection for the Sabarimala festival season during 2020-21.

Petitioner : Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd (KSEB Ltd)

KSEB Ltd represented by : Sri Suresh, EE, TRAC
Sri. Manoj G, AEE TRAC

Order dated 11 .12.2020

1. KSEB Ltd, on 5.11.2020 filed an application for approval of the rates for providing supply at Sabarimala during festival season 2020-21. Subsequently, as instructed from the registry of the Commission, requisite fee and additional copies were submitted on 18.11.2020 to treat the application as a petition and grant approval of 'street light tariff and rate for providing service connection for the Sabarimala festival season during 2020-21'.
2. The summary of the petition filed by KSEB Ltd are given below.
 - (i) Since the year 2008, the Commission have been approving the 'street light tariff and service connection charges' for the 'hill tracts' in Sabarimala for providing service connections. For the year previous year 2019-20, the Commission approved the same vide letter 28.11.2019.

- (ii) The estimate of the rates for providing service connections are prepared as per Regulations 76, 81, 82, 88(5) and 89(6) of the Supply Code, 2014.
- (iii) The additional cost of conveyance of materials and labour is taken as 1.15 times the normal rates allowed in KPWD schedule of rates.
- (iv) The cost data of materials approved by the Commission for the year 2018-19 is taken as the basis for arriving the new rates for the year 2020-21, as detailed below.
 - (1) Cost of materials: Cost of materials adopted is as per the cost data approved by the Commission for the year 2018-19.
 - (2) Quantity of materials: The quantity of materials as per the cost data approved for the year 2018-19 is generally followed for estimating the cost. Quantum of weather proof wire and Aluminium cable is taken as per the quantum approved for Sabarimala during 2018-19.
 - (3) Labour cost: Labour cost is taken as 1.15 times the rates approved for the cost data for the year 2018-19, considering the terrain and difficulty in executing works.
 - (4) Transportation cost: Transportation cost is 1.15 times the rate approved for the normal area for the year 2018-19.
 - (5) Conveyance cost: Earlier orders, cost of conveyance of material to Sannidhanam from Pamba by head load was approved by the Commission based on the PWD data for the year 2012. PWD has not revised the rate after 2012, instead the CPWD data is followed by PWD at present. The rate for head load conveyance is not provided in CPWD data. Therefore, the conveyance cost approved by the Commission based on PWD data for 2012 was adjusted taking inflation between years 2012 and 2020 for estimation of conveyance cost by head load for 2020-21.
 - (6) Administrative overhead charges: As per the provisions of the Supply Code, 2014, 10% of the labour and transportation cost is taken as Administrative overhead charges.
 - (7) GST: In the earlier orders, Commission has allowed GST as per rules in addition to the approved cost for 2018-19.
- (v) **Street Light tariff:** The tariff for public lighting at Sabarimala claimed is same as that approved for 2019-20 considering 14 hrs /day burning.

3. The Commission admitted the petition as OP 36/2020 and conducted hearing of the petition on 30.11.2020 at 11 AM through video conference. Sri. Suresh,

Executive Engineer and Sri. Manoj. AEE, presented the petition on behalf of KSEB Ltd. Summary of the deliberations during the hearing is given below:

- (i) There was no revision in basic cost data for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21. KSEBL has not approached the Commission for revision of cost data since there was no revision in PWD cost index. PWD had published the revised index, but immediately withdrawn it and hence KSEBL did not finalise the revised rates.
- (ii) There are no major changes in the cost of works for Sabarimala from that approved for previous years, since there was no revision in basic cost data. The only difference claimed was on the cost of conveyance by head load from that approved for previous years, calculated based on the inflation

Analysis and Decision

4. The Commission has examined the petition filed by KSEB Ltd for the approval of the cost data for estimating the rate of providing service connections at Sabarimala during the festival season of the financial year 2020-21 as per the provisions of the Electricity Act 2003 and Kerala Electricity Supply Code 2014 (herein after referred to as Supply Code 2014). As per the Regulation 33 of the Supply Code 2014, KSEB Ltd has to get the approval for the cost data of rate of materials and works, once in every financial year.
5. The Commission, based on the petition dated 22.11.2017 filed by KSEB Ltd for the approval of cost data for the year 2018-19, had approved the cost data of the rates of materials and labour for the distribution works for the year 2018-19 vide Order dated 27.04.2018. However, thereafter, KSEB Ltd has not filed any petition for approval of cost data for the FYs 2019-20 and 2020-21, though the Regulation 33 of the Supply Code 2014 mandates approval for the cost data of the rate of materials and works, once every financial year. Hence, KSEB Ltd is still adopting the cost data approved for the year 2018-19 for providing service connections to the consumers across the State.

Based on the above basic cost data approved for the year 2018-19, the Commission vide Order dated 25.10.2018 approved the rate for providing service connection at Sabarimala during the Mandala-Makaravilakku festival for 2018-19.

6. Subsequently, KSEB Ltd vide letter dated 08.11.2019 requested before the Commission to separately approve the rate for providing service connection at Sabarimala during the festival seasons of the year 2019-20, through it had not

filed any petition for the approval of the base cost data for the financial year 2019-20. Hence, the Commission vide the letter dated 28.11.2019 directed KSEB Ltd to adopt the same cost data as approved by the Commission for the FY 2018-19 for providing service connections at Sabarimala till further orders. The street lights tariff is approved based on the 'schedule of tariff and terms and conditions of supply' approved vide Order dated 08.07.2019 in OA 15/2018.

7. In the present petition dated 18.11.2020 for approval of the rate for providing service connection at Sabarimala during the festival seasons of the FY 2020-21, KSEB Ltd has adopted the basic cost data approved for the year 2018-19 as the base, but by modifying the cost of conveyance based on inflation for transportation of materials by head load.
8. The Commission is of the considered view that, there is no rationale in revising the rate for providing service connections at Sabarimala alone for the year 2020-21, without revising the base cost data for the FY 2018-19 onwards for providing service connections in other parts of the State. In this circumstance, Commission has decided to permit KSEB Ltd to adopt the rate approved for the year 2018-19 vide letter dated 25.10.2018 for providing service connections at Sabarimala during the festival seasons of this FY 2020-21 also.
9. KSEB Ltd, has also requested for approval of tariff for street lights provided at Sabarimala for the FY 2020-21. The Commission, based on the Tariff Order dated 08.07.2019 in OA No. 15/2018, approved the Street light tariff for public lighting at Sabarimala during festival seasons of 2019-20 vide Order dated 28.11.2019. The Commission hereby permits KSEBL to continue the same tariff for the year 2020-21 also as such without any modifications.

Order of the Commission

10. The Commission, after examining the petition filed by KSEB Ltd for the approval of the cost data for estimating the rate of providing service connections at Sabarimala for the festival season of the financial year 2020-21 as per the provisions of the Electricity Act 2003 and Kerala Electricity Supply Code 2014, hereby by orders the following.
 - (i) KSEB Ltd shall adopt the cost data for estimating the rate of providing service connections at Sabarimala for the festival season 2018-19, approved vide Order dated 25.10.2018, for providing service connections at Sabarimala during the festival seasons of this FY 2020-21 also.
 - (ii) KSEB Ltd, shall adopt the tariff for Street lights, approved by the Commission for Sabarimala during festival seasons of 2019-20, vide Order dated 28.11.2019, for the year 2020-21 also.

- (iii) KSEB Ltd shall, immediately file the petition for approval of the cost data for estimating the cost of providing service connections to the consumers as per the Regulation 33 of the Supply Code 2014.

The petition disposed of.

Sd/-

**Adv.A J Wilson
Member**

Sd/-

**Preman Dinaraj
Chairman**

Approved for issue

**C R Satheeshchandran
Secretary (i/c)**