

**KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

**Present** : Sri. T. M. Manoharan, Chairman  
Sri. K. Vikraman Nair, Member  
Sri. S. Venugopal, Member

**Common order in Petitions**

**OP. No. 7/2014, OP No. 17/2015 and OP No. 18/2015.**

**In the matter of approval of Meter rent, Communication charges and other miscellaneous charges to be levied from the consumers of Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority.**

**Petitioner** : M/s. Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority, Kochi.

**Order dated 22.07.2015**

M/s Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority (CSEZA) is a licensee for distribution of electricity in the processing area of Cochin Special Economic Zone since May 2005. The distribution of supply is being maintained through underground cables and metering is through pre-paid metering system. The Chairperson of CSEZA had requested the Commission to fix meter hire charges and communication charges for the pre-paid metering system during the hearing of ARR & ERC for the financial year 2013-14. The Commission had observed that miscellaneous charges for various services including meter rent to be realised by the licensees are to be determined since new types of meters and communication are being inducted into the system. The Commission had invited proposals from all licensees for determination of miscellaneous charges including rent of various types of meters and also charges for the associated services such as communication charges for AMR/ online meter reading etc.

2. The Chairperson, CSEZA has filed OP. No. 7 of 2014 before the Commission for the approval of meter rent and communication charges, miscellaneous charges such as application fee, reconnection fee, testing fee etc. M/s. CSEZA submitted that they have been distributing electricity to its consumers through pre-paid metering system intended to maximise collection efficiency. The meters used by CSEZA are of a specific make and

of 0.5 accuracy class. M/s. CSEZA has launched a web-enabled pre-paid metering system using GPRS enabled SIM cards instead of GSM based SIM cards. For accessing the details from the energy meters and monitoring and processing the pre-paid metering system, a lease line is also required incurring recurring expenditure. The work of modernisation of pre paid system was implemented with the approval of the Commission.

3. The details of calculation of meter rent as submitted by the petitioner are as follows:

a) Meter rent:

Average purchase cost of one pre-paid energy meter : Rs. 40600

Considering life period of a pre-paid meter as 15 years, monthly rate is: Rs. 225

(40600 / (12 months x 15 years))

Calibration charges for 15 years (once in 5 years) : Rs. 6000

Monthly contribution for the above : Rs. 33

Meter rent chargeable: Rs. 225 + Rs. 33 : **Rs.258**

(Rounded to **Rs. 250** per month per consumer)

b) Communication Charges:

Average monthly charge for one GPRS SIM : Rs. 55.05

Internet Leased Line charge per annum : Rs. 3,00,000

Monthly leased line charge : Rs. 25,000

No. of consumers as on date : 157

Monthly leased line charge per consumer ( taking 160) : Rs.156.25

( 25000 /160)

Cost of one GPRS enabled communicating modem : Rs. 17,025

Monthly rate ( considering life of modem as 15 years) : Rs. 94.58

Total communication charges : **Rs. 250.83**

(Rounded to **Rs. 250** per month per consumer)

A hearing was held on 20-05-2014 in the court room of the Commission. During the hearing the petitioner was directed to include the communication charges in their ARR under administrative and general expenses.

4. Subsequently, CSEZA sought the approval of the Commission for the cost data in petition no. O.P.17 of 2015 and the approval of Miscellaneous charges in O.P. no. 18 of 2015. Hearing was conducted in the conference Hall of CSEZA at Kakkanad on 05-06-2015, clubbing all the three petitions together. M/s. CSEZA in their written submission vide letter no. H-2/1/2014: CSEZA dated 11-06-2015 stated that during the hearing on 20-05-2014 the Commission has directed them to include communication charge under