

**PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Plot No. 3, Block-B, Sector 18-A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh**

**ORDER**

DATE: 10.03.2021

In the matter of

**Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) (8<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Regulations, 2021.**

**1. Introduction**

The Commission issued the draft notification regarding Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) (8<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Regulations, 2021 along with Explanatory Memorandum seeking comments/ objections/ suggestions from the stakeholders by 22.02.2021. The comments/objections suggestions from only one stakeholder i.e. PSPCL were received. The Public hearing was also held on 24.02.2021 and in the public hearing, oral submissions were made by the officers of PSPCL.

The comments received from the stakeholders on the draft regulations, the analysis and decisions of the Commission on these comments/objections/ suggestions along with reasons for the same are as under:-

**2. Amendments in Regulation 2, 4.2, 8.5, 9.1.3, 13.3, 21.5.2, 25.2, 25.3, 25.4, 26.2, 26.5, 26.5, 30.3 and 35.1.5 of the Principal Regulations-**

No comments/objections/suggestions were received from any stakeholder and the amendments in these regulations are approved.

**3. Amendments in Regulation 31.5 of the Principal Regulations-**

As per the existing provisions of Supply Code-2014, all payments of electricity bills exceeding Rs. 50,000/- in a billing cycle/month are accepted only through digital mode. In the draft notification, it has been proposed to lower this limit to Rs.20,000/- in a billing cycle/month with a rebate of 0.25% subject to maximum of Rs. 1000/- to consumers making payment through digital mode.

PSPCL submitted that the consumers having bills exceeding Rs. 50,000/- are paying the bills through digital mode and transactions are being processed without any technical glitches. Accordingly, PSPCL proposed that no incentive should be paid to consumers having bill amount exceeding Rs. 50,000/-. Regarding incentive to consumers with bill amount upto Rs. 50,000/-, PSPCL submitted that the incentive is paid to motivate or encourage compliance but in the proposed amendment, the payment is to be made compulsory for bill amount exceeding Rs.20,000/-. Accordingly PSPCL proposed that;

- a. E-transaction be made compulsory above Rs. 20,000/- bill per billing cycle (from existing Rs. 50,000/-).
- b. Rebate of @ 0.25% subject to maximum Rs. 100 per bill be allowed for bill amount upto Rs.50000/-.
- c. The rebate as per para-b above shall be given for maximum period of 1 year from change of the Regulations. Thereafter, it will be reviewed while deciding the tariff petition in ARR.
- d. As per Sr. No. 1 above, no rebate is to be given for bill amount above Rs. 50,000/-

### **Analysis and Decision**

The Government of India notified Electricity (Rights of consumers) Rules 2020 vide notification no. G.S.R. 818(E) dated 31.12.2020. Sub-rule (2) of Rule (7) of the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 stipulates that the bill amount of more than one thousand rupees or an amount specified by the Commission shall mandatorily be paid online. Commission shall specify a suitable incentive or rebate for payment through online system. So whereas grant of incentive or rebate to consumers making payment through digital mode is concerned, the Rule does not make any distinction between the consumers for whom online payment is mandatory or the ones for whom online payment is not mandatory. Such incentive or rebate has been mandated irrespective of the quantum of bill. Accordingly, the Commission decides to allow rebate to all the consumers making payment of electricity bills through digital mode. On the issue

of quantum of rebate to be allowed, the Commission is of the view that any benefit accruing to the licensee on account of online payment may be shared by it with the consumers. However, such benefit should not put any extra burden on the small consumers making payment through means other than digital mode. Thus the Commission decides that all payments exceeding Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only) in a billing cycle/month shall only be accepted through e-banking, credit/debit card, RTGS, NEFT or any other approved digital mode. A rebate of 0.25% of the bill amount subject to maximum of Rs. 100/- shall be allowed to all the consumers making payment through digital mode. The rebate shall be credited to the account of the consumer in the next bill.

To mitigate the hardship sometimes faced by the consumers while making online payment, the Commission also decides that in case the consumer makes the payment through digital mode before the due date but there is delay in transfer of funds by the bank to the distribution licensee, no late payment surcharge shall be recoverable from the consumer.

The Commission approves the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) (8<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Regulations, 2021 with modifications as discussed above.

Sd/-

**(Paramjeet Singh)**  
Member

Sd/-

**(Anjuli Chandra)**  
Member

Sd/-

**(Kusumjit Sidhu)**  
Chairperson

Chandigarh

Dated: 10.03.2021