

**PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
SCO NO. 220-221, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH**

**Petition No. 47 of 2014
Date of Order: 26.08.2014**

In the matter of: Petition regarding Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) for Domestic / Non-Residential Supply (DS/NRS), Small Power / Medium Supply (SP/MS) and A.P. Consumers.

AND

In the matter of: Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, The Mall, Patiala.

Present: Smt.Romila Dubey, Chairperson
Shri Virinder Singh, Member
Shri Gurinder Jit Singh, Member

ORDER

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) filed this petition, submitting therein that in compliance with the Order dated 24.02.2014 of the Commission in Petition No.07 of 2014, Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) for Domestic Supply / Non Residential Supply (DS/NRS), Small Power / Medium Supply (SP/MS) and AP consumers, was launched vide Commercial Circular No.07/14, 08/14 and 09/14 all dated 25.02.2014. The scheme was operative from 01.03.2014 to 31.05.2014. The same was extended from 31.05.2014 to 31.07.2014 as per Order dated 15.05.2014 of the Commission in Petition No.24 of 2014 vide Commercial Circular No.30/2014 (AP), CC No.34/2014 (DS/NRS) and CC No.35/2014 (SP/MS). PSPCL has submitted that response of VDS for DS/NRS and SP/MS category has been low on account of following stipulations:-

- The SP and MS consumers shall be allowed to declare the unauthorized load to the extent of 100% & 50% of the existing load respectively provided there is no change in category.

- DS/NRS consumers with sanctioned load upto 10 KW can extend the load upto 20 KW. And DS/NRS consumers with connected load above 10 KW is allowed to extend their load upto 100% subject to the condition that total load after extension does not exceed 100 KW.

PSPCL has prayed that:

1. It may be allowed to extend the VDS period further by two months, which shall be reckoned from the date of decision by the Commission.
2. DS & NRS and SP & MS consumers may be allowed to extend their load under VDS subject to the condition that total load after extension does not exceed 100 KW.
3. All other terms and conditions of the Commission's order dated 15.05.14 in petition no.24 of 2014 shall remain unchanged.

The petition was taken up on 05.08.2014 and following Order was passed by the Commission:-

“After hearing the petitioner, the petition is admitted. The petitioner brought out in the petition that as per Commission's Order dated 24.02.2014 in Petition No.7 of 2014, Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) for DS, NRS, SP, MS and AP consumers was launched w.e.f. 01.03.2014 to 31.05.2014. The VDS was extended further upto 31.07.2014 vide Order dated 15.05.2014 in Petition No.24 of 2014. As per the status of VDS submitted by PSPCL, a total 77862 number consumers of various categories got the load of 231427 kW regularized upto 25.07.2014 and an amount of Rs.80.28 crore has been received there-against by PSPCL. The petitioner has further brought out that although the scheme was operative from 01.03.2014 but response of VDS has only picked up during the last two months. PSPCL is expecting good response if the period of VDS is extended further. PSPCL has proposed that the period of VDS scheme may be extended for another two months to be reckoned from the date of

decision by the Commission. PSPCL has further brought out that response of VDS scheme particularly for DS, NRS, SP & MS categories is low due to limits of unauthorized load that can be regularized under VDS. PSPCL has therefore proposed that DS, NRS, SP & MS consumers be allowed to extend their load under VDS, subject to the condition that total load after extension does not exceed 100 KW.

After hearing PSPCL, the Commission notes that VDS for DS, NRS, SP, MS and AP categories allowed vide Commission's Order dated 24.02.2014 and 15.05.2014 expired on 31.07.2014. Therefore the Commission decides to allow VDS for two months from the date of issue of this Order, on the terms and conditions approved in Commission's Order dated 24.02.2014 read with Order dated 15.05.2014, with the stipulation that no extension will be allowed under this scheme.

The petition will be taken up for further hearing on 02.09.2014 at 11.30 A.M."

3. The hearing of the petition was preponed to 12.08.2014 on the request of PSPCL and Order dated 13.08.2014 was passed as under:-

"The Commission vide its Order dated 05.08.2014 disposed of first part of the prayer by allowing VDS for two months as detailed in the Order. However the second part of prayer i.e. DS, NRS, SP and MS consumers be allowed to extend their load under VDS subject to the condition that total load after extension does not exceed 100 KW, was adjourned for further hearing on 02.09.2014. PSPCL requested vide EIC/Commercial memo No.429/SSM/ 249/VDS/ AP/Vol.3 dated 07.08.2014 to advance the date of hearing. The Commission allowed the request of PSPCL and held the hearing scheduled for 02.09.2014 on 12.08.2014.

After hearing PSPCL, the Commission decided to close further hearing of the petition. Order is reserved".

4. The Commission has considered the second prayer of PSPCL carefully. The Commission observes that the basic purpose of introducing VDS is to give one-time opportunity to the consumers to get their unauthorized loads regularized without payment of any penalty although distribution licensee has the powers to check the load and penalize the delinquent consumers for extending their loads without sanction. This scheme should not be allowed to be used as a back door entry for extension in loads at reduced Service Connection Charges.

Since Contract Demand system has been introduced in MS category, so there is no relevance of connected load so far as system planning is concerned. SP category consumers can not be allowed to get the unauthorized load regularized which result in to change in category from SP to MS since tariff structure and conditions are different for each category.

So far as DS/NRS consumers are concerned, the limits imposed by the Commission in Para (ix) of Order dated 24.02.2014 in Petition No.7 of 2014 are in accordance with the basic spirit of VDS and there is no justification to change these limits for regularization of load.

Thus the Commission finds no justification to accept the prayer of PSPCL regarding amendment in the conditions imposed by the Commission in Para (ix) and (x) of the Order dated 24.02.2014 in Petition No.7 of 2014.

The petition is disposed of accordingly.

Sd/-
(Gurinder Jit Singh)
Member

Sd/-
(Virinder Singh)
Member

Sd/-
(Romila Dubey)
Chairperson

Chandigarh
Dated: 26.08.2014