

**ODISHA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
BIDYUT NIYAMAK BHAWAN
PLOT NO.-4, CHUNOKOLI, SHAILASHREE VIHAR
BHUBANESWAR - 751 021**

**Present: Shri S. C. Mahapatra, Chairperson
Shri G. Mohapatra, Member
Shri S. K. Ray Mohapatra, Member**

Case No. 33/2023

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| M/s. TPCODL, TPNODL, TPSODL & TPWODL | | Petitioners |
| Vrs. | | |
| DoE, GoO & others | | Respondents |

In the matter of: Application under Regulations, 154, 199 and 204 of the OERC Distribution (Condition of Supply) Code, 2019 for extension of timeline of One Time settlement (OTS) Scheme-2022 for waiver of long outstanding arrears of Government Consumers and other than Govt. Consumers including State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Autonomous Organizations, Local Bodies(ULBs & PRIs and Cooperatives etc.

For Petitioner: Shri Puneet Munjal, Head Regulatory Affairs and GA, TPCODL, Shri V. Wagle, Head Regulatory Affairs, TPSODL, Shri K.C. Nanda, GM (RA & Strategy), TPWODL and Ms. Malancha Ghose, DGM (RA), TPNODL.

For Respondents: Shri Lalit Mishra, DGM (Finance), Shri S.K. Panda, Sr. GM (RT&C), OPTCL, Ms. Sonali Pattnaik, ALO, GoO
Nobody represents on behalf of Shri Lalatendu Dikhit

ORDER

Date of Hearing: 23.05.2023

Date of Order: 23.05.2023

This order arises on the application filed by M/s. TPCODL, representing itself and other three Distribution Companies in Odisha viz. TPSODL, TPWODL and TPNODL, praying for extension of time for One Time Settlement Scheme-2022 (OTS Scheme-2022).

2. For the sake of clarity, it is stated that earlier order dated 22.12.2022 in Case No.122 of 2021 was passed by this Commission allowing four distribution companies and consumers of the State for working out OTS Scheme-2022 in respect of outstanding dues with regard to payment of electricity bills. The said order of OTS Scheme was valid till 21st April, 2023.
3. Upon receipt of the aforesaid application, it was circulated amongst general public inviting them to file their objections/suggestions on the Application of the DISCOMs

by 10.05.2023. One of the public objectors Shri Lalatendu Dikhit has filed his reply over propriety of extension of time of OTS Scheme-2022 which has already expired on 21.04.2023.

4. In their application, it is averred by the Applicants / DISCOMs that extension of time period of OTS Scheme-2022 will be in favour of general public interest and if the DISCOMs receive the arrear dues prior to the vesting period, the liquidity position of GRIDCO as well as the DISCOMs will considerably improve which ultimately will lead to better service to the end consumers.
5. After hearing the parties, we do observe that though opportunity of OTS Scheme-2022 was expired on 21.04.2023 i.e. 120 days from the date of issue of the previous order dated 22.12.2022. We further observe that extension of this opportunity to the consumers, who had failed to avail the benefit of this scheme for some reasons or others, will not jeopardise the public interest. Considering all the submissions, the application for extension of time for OTS Scheme-2022 stands allowed upto 31.07.2023. The terms and conditions stipulated in the earlier order dated 22.12.2022 of the Commission in Case No.122 of 2021 shall remain in force without alteration.
6. In addition to the above, the Commission in exercise of its power under Regulation 201 of OERC Distribution (Conditions of Supply) Code, 2019 hereby orders that the revision of bills/arrears more than two years old shall be extended further and licensee/GRF/Ombudsman will entertain the disputed bills of more than two years upto 31.07.2023 and resolve the same within 15.09.2023.
7. Accordingly, the DISCOMs are directed to take necessary steps for wide circulation on such extension of OTS Scheme-2022 through electronic and print media as well as by distributing leaflet via field functionaries within three days and also place the same in their respective websites forthwith. The DISCOMs are also directed to write letters to all Government bodies/Departments etc. having outstanding arrears, informing them about this decision of the Commission and requesting them to avail this One Time benefit. The status of realisation of arrear amount under the OTS Scheme shall be communicated to the Commission within two weeks from the date of end of the scheme.
8. The case is accordingly disposed of.

Sd/-
(S. K. Ray Mohapatra)
Member

Sd/-
(G. Mohapatra)
Member

Sd/-
(S. C. Mahapatra)
Chairperson