

**KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY
COMMISSION**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Petition No: OP 36/ 2021

Present : **Shri. Preman Dinaraj, Chairman**
: **Adv. A. J. Wilson, Member (Law)**

In the matter of : **Petition filed by M/s Kanan Devan Hills
Plantations Company Private Limited for the
approval of introducing Spot Billing System in the
Licensed Distribution Area**

Petitioner : Kanan Devan Hills Plantations Company Private
Limited (KDHPCL)

Petitioner Represented by : Sri. P.M.Srikrishnan, Executive Director, KDHPCL
Sri.Raju.U.Warrier, Manager, KDHPCL
Sri.D.Nelson, Technical Officer, KDHPCL
Sri.Jayaraman, Executive, KDHPCL

Hearing : **10.30 AM, 12-10-2021**
Panchayath Hall, Munnar

Order dated 27.10.2021

1. M/s Kanan Devan Hills Plantations Company Private Limited (KDHPCL), is the distribution licensee at Munnar, vide Notification Nos 1/2007 dated 9th January 2007 and 2/2007 dated 23rd March 2007 of the Commission. The licensee has filed the petition before the Commission for the approval of introducing 'Spot Billing' mechanism to raise the bills on its electricity consumers and issue the same to them immediately thereof at their doorsteps to facilitate timely receipt of bills by the consumers.
2. The licensee vide letter No.EG/10/191, KDHPCL had approached the Commission for using spot billing unit and the Commission vide letter No. 1809/D(T)/KSERC/2020/962 dated 16.11.2020 had informed the licensee to file a petition for necessary Orders in the matter. Accordingly, the said petition for the approval for the introduction of Spot Billing System in the Licensed Distribution Area with the prayer to pass Order allowing introduction of Spot Billing System by the Licensee in its Licensed Distribution Area.

3. The Commission had considered the petition and admitted the same as OP 36/2021. The licensee has stated that the spot billing mechanism consists of a handheld bill processing unit with an attached bill printing unit. The billing unit will contain data relating to consumers that would be required to generate the bill, after the data read from the consumer meter is fed in. After each meter reading, once the corresponding consumer identification data is fed into the unit, it will generate the bill on the spot for the consumer. The bill can be handed over to the consumer on the spot immediately.
4. The hearing on the petition was held on 12.10.2021 at the Panchayath Hall, Munnar. Sri. P.M.Srikrishnan, Executive Director, KDHPCL, Sri.Raju.U.Warrier, Manager, KDHPCL and other Officers of the licensee participated in the hearing. Sri.Raju.U.Warrier presented the petition before the Commission and Sri Nelson and Sri Jayaraman replied to the clarifications sought by the Commission in the matter.
5. As per Regulation 110(5) of the Kerala Electricity Supply Code 2014, the licensee may use hand held instruments, meter reading instrument (MRI) or wireless equipment for recording meter readings and for generation of bills on the spot. The relevant portion of the said regulation is quoted below.

Kerala Electricity Supply Code 2014 – Regulation 110(5)

“110. Reading of meters.- (1) The meter shall regularly be read once in every billing cycle and on special reading occasions.

(2) The consumer shall extend all facilities to read the meter, to the licensee or his employee or to the person duly authorised by the licensee for the purpose.

(3) The meter shall be read only by an employee of the licensee or by the person duly authorised by the licensee for this purpose.

(4) The licensee shall issue proper photo identity cards to the employee or the person duly authorised by the licensee for reading the meter and he shall carry the photo identity card during the course of meter reading.

(5) The employee of the licensee or the person duly authorised by the licensee for reading the meter, may use hand held instruments, meter reading instrument (MRI) or wireless equipment for recording meter readings and for generation of bills on the spot.

(6) If bills are prepared on the basis of MRI downloads or if meter reading is taken on the basis of remote meter reading and the consumer wishes to have a record of the reading taken, he shall be given such details by the licensee...

.....”

6. The licensee in the hearing briefed on the gadgets required for the spot billing mechanism and presented specimen copies of the bills for perusal of the Commission. The licensee clarified that the software for the billing mechanism was developed inhouse and no additional cost has been incurred for the same nor any portion for the development of the system has been outsourced. The licensee also stated that they had conducted a two-month trial run to check the accuracy of the mechanism. Commission appreciated the quality of the specimen bills presented before the Commission and also made few suggestions that are to be incorporated to the Electricity Bill.
7. The Chairman pointed out that the Ministry of Power has emphasized the necessity of introducing pre-paid metering system by 2025. He further mentioned that KDHPCL shall keep in mind the near future requirements based on the new developments and current scenario in the power sector across the nation. He also enquired as to whether the developed software is compatible with the futuristic developments as the cost incurred shall not become redundant.
8. M/s KDHPCL submitted that the estimated cost for the spot billing mechanism will be around Rs.10.00 lakh. Commission sought clarifications on the consumer mix of the licensee and stated that the licensee, while filing the petition for the truing up of accounts for the relevant year, shall submit full details of the expenditure incurred for the Spot Billing System.

Orders of the Commission

9. The Commission after due scrutiny of the petition filed by M/s Kanan Devan Hills Plantations Company Private Limited (KDHPCL), clarifications provided during the hearing, and provisions of the Kerala Electricity Supply Code, 2014 approves the proposal of the licensee for introducing Spot Billing System in the Licensed Distribution Area with a direction to furnish the full details of the expenditure on the Spot Billing System while submitting the petition for truing up of accounts for the relevant financial year

The Petition is disposed off as ordered above.

Sd/-
Adv. A. J. Wilson
Member (Law)

Sd/-
Preman Dinaraj
Chairman

Approved for Issue

Sd/-
Secretary