

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Coram:

- 1. Shri Ashok Basu, Chairman**
- 2. Shri G.S. Rajamani, Member**
- 3. Shri K.N.Sinha, Member**

Petition No.62/2002

In the matter of

Transmission Tariff for Rangit Transmission System in Eastern Region for
1.4.2001 to 31.3.2004

And in the matter of

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.

.... Petitioner

Vs

1. Bihar State Electricity Board, Patna
2. West Bengal State Electricity Board, Kolkata
3. Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd., Bhubaneswar
4. Damodar Valley Corporation, Kolkata
5. Power Dept., Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok
6. Jharkhand State Electricity Board, Ranchi

.....Respondents

The following were present

1. Shri Prashant Sharma, PGCIL
2. Shri S. S. Sharma, PGCIL
3. Shri U.K. Tyagi, PGCIL
4. Shri Manoj Rastogi, PGCIL
5. Shri A.K. Nagpal, PGCIL
6. Shri S. Mehrotra, Dy. Mgr (F), PGCIL
7. Shri S.K. Jain, Manager (Law), PGCIL
8. Shri J Sridharan, ED(P), PGCIL
9. Shri Mahesh K.R., PGCIL
10. Shri R.K. Vohra, ED (Comm), PGCIL

ORDER
(DATE OF HEARING: 12.12.2002)

In this petition, the petitioner, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd has sought approval for tariff in respect Rangit Transmission System in Eastern Region for the period from 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2004 based on terms and conditions of tariff contained in the Commission's notification dated 26.3.2001, (hereinafter referred to as "the notification dated 26.3.2001").

2. The execution of Rangit HEP (60 MW) with associated transmission system was approved by Ministry of Power, for Rs.18116.00 lakh by letter dated 17.4.1990. Further, CEA vide its letter dated 31.10.1994 accorded techno-economic clearance to the DPR for the Transmission System associated with Rangit HEP at an estimated cost of Rs.3747.00 lakh, including an IDC of Rs.138.00 lakh. The following works associated with Rangit HEP were included under Rangit Transmission System:

- (i) Rangit - Siliguri 132 kV D/C transmission line
- (ii) Rangit - Rammam 132 kV S/C transmission line
- (iii) Rangit - Melli 66 kV S/C transmission line
- (iv) Extension of Bays at 132 kV Siliguri and Rammam Sub Stations
- (v) Extension of Bay at 66 kV Melli Sub Station

3. In line with the powers delegated to the Boards of Directors of Public Enterprises to sanction capital outlay, the investment approval of Rs.5075.00 lakh for Rangit Transmission System was accorded by the Board of Directors of the petitioner company vide letter dated 2.2.1999. The undermentioned elements of the Transmission System were declared under commercial operation as indicated below:

- (i) 66 kV Rangit - Milli S/C Transmission Line with associated bays at Rangit and Melli Sub Station - 1.4.1997

- (ii) 132 kV Rangit - Rammam S/C Transmission Line with associated bays
at Rangit and Rammam Sub Station - 1.1.1998

4. The tariff for the aforesaid elements of the Transmission System with capital cost of Rs.1742.00 lakh was notified by the Ministry of Power vide notification dated 11.5.1999.

5. The balance assets, that is, Rangit Siliguri 132 kV D/C Transmission Line along with associated bays was declared under commercial operation w.e.f. 1.12.1998 at a cost of Rs.2788.85 lakh. The tariff for these assets of the Transmission System was approved by the Commission by its order dated 7.6.2002 in Petition No.65/2000 by considering the completion cost of Rs.2788.85 lakh. All the relevant details are extracted below:

(Rs. in lakh)					
Name of the Element	Authority for determination of tariff for the previous period	Apportioned approved cost	Approved capital cost	Actual capital cost as per C.A. certificate	Admitted capital cost as on 31.03.2001 (excluding FERV)
(i) Rangit-Melli Transmission Line of Rangit Transmission System in Eastern Region	Ministry of Power Notification dated 11.5.1999	1953.00	5075.00	1013.00	1013.00
(ii) Rangit-Rammam Transmission Line of Rangit Transmission System in Eastern Region				729.00	729.00
(iii) 132 KV Rangit-Siliguri Transmission Line of Rangit Transmission System in Eastern Region				2788.85	2788.85
Total		5076.00	5075.00	4530.85	4530.85

6. The petitioner, in the present petition, has sought approval for transmission charges for the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

	Rangit-Rammam and Rangit-Melli Transmission Lines			132 kV Rangit-Siliguri Transmission Line		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Interest on Loan	34.57	10.57	9.78	54.28	16.70	15.44
Interest on Working Capital	10.20	9.45	9.78	16.75	15.59	16.14
Depreciation	47.29	47.29	47.29	73.36	73.36	73.36
Advance Against Depreciation	31.05	0.00	0.00	49.89	0.00	0.00
Return on Equity	128.32	128.32	128.32	209.58	209.58	209.58
O & M Expenses	87.96	93.28	98.74	185.54	196.81	208.22
Total	339.39	288.91	293.91	589.40	512.04	522.74

7. The petitioner has submitted the following details in support of its claim for interest on working capital:(Rs. In lakh)

	Rangit-Rammam and Rangit-Melli Transmission Lines			132 kV Rangit-Siliguri Transmission Line		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Maintenance Spares	31.94	33.86	35.89	24.78	26.27	27.85
O & M expenses	15.46	16.40	17.35	7.33	7.77	8.23
Receivables	98.23	85.34	87.12	56.56	48.15	48.98
Total	145.63	135.60	140.36	88.67	82.19	85.06
Rate of Interest	11.50%	11.50%	11.50%	11.50%	11.50%	11.50%
Interest	16.75	15.59	16.14	10.20	9.45	9.78

8. In addition, the petitioner has prayed for approval of other charges like, Income Tax, incentive, Development Surcharge, late payment surcharge, other statutory taxes, levies, cess, filing fee, etc in terms of the notification dated 26.3.2001.

CAPITAL COST

9. As laid down in the notification dated 26.3.2001, the project cost as approved by CEA or an appropriate independent agency, other than Board of Directors of the generating company, as the case may be, shall be the basis for computation of tariff. As already mentioned in para 9 above, the tariff for the Transmission System was notified by Ministry of Power vide its notification dated 11.5.1999 and the Commission by its order dated 7.6.2002 in petition No 62/2000. The capital expenditure up to 31.3.2001 was Rs.4530.85 lakh in the said tariff setting, the details of which are given at para 5 above. The same has been taken as the capital base as on 31.3.2001.

ADDITIONAL CAPITALISATION

10. The notification dated 26.3.2001 provides that tariff revisions during the tariff period on account of capital expenditure within the approved project cost incurred during the tariff period may be entertained by the Commission only if such expenditure exceeds 20% of the approved cost. In all cases, where such expenditure is less than 20%, tariff revision shall be considered in the next tariff period.

11. The petitioner has not claimed any additional capital expenditure for the period after 01.04.2001 in the petition. Accordingly, the additional capitalisation has not been considered.

EXTRA RUPEE LIABILITY

12. The notification dated 26.3.2001 provides that

- (a) Extra rupee liability towards interest payment and loan repayment actually incurred, in the relevant year shall be admissible; provided it directly arises

out of foreign exchange rate variation and is not attributable to Utility or its suppliers or contractors. Every utility shall follow the method as per the Accounting Standard-11 (Eleven) as issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India to calculate the impact of exchange rate variation on loan repayment.

- (b) Any foreign exchange rate variation to the extent of the dividend paid out on the permissible equity contributed in foreign currency, subject to the ceiling of permissible return shall be admissible. This as and when paid, may be spread over the twelve-month period in arrears.

13. The petitioner has not claimed FERV as no foreign loan is involved. According extra rupee liability on account of foreign loan has not been considered.

SOURCES OF FINANCING. DEBT – EQUITY RATIO

14. As per Para 4.3 of the notification dated 26.3.2001, capital expenditure of the transmission system shall be financed as per approved financial package set out in the techno-economic clearance of CEA or as approved by an appropriate independent agency, as the case may be. The petitioner has claimed tariff by taking actual debt and equity admitted by Ministry of Power/the Commission while approving tariff for the previous tariff setting. It is pointed out on behalf of the respondents that taking debt and equity as claimed by the petitioner will result into higher return on equity (ROE). The respondents have submitted that equity of 20% or 30% should be considered for the purpose of fixation of tariff. In the present case, the assets were commissioned before 1.4.2001 and Ministry of Power/the Commission while notifying tariff for the period ending 31.3.2001 had considered debt and equity on actual basis. Therefore,

the same debt-equity ratio as considered by Ministry of Power in its notification dated 11.5.1999 and the Commission in its order dated 7.6.2002 has been maintained for determination of tariff in the present petition.

Name of the Element	Debt-Equity ratio as considered in current tariff setting
(i) Rangit-Melli Transmission Line of Rangit Transmission System in Eastern Region	53.96:46.04
(ii) Rangit-Rammam Transmission Line of Rangit Transmission System in Eastern Region	
(ii) 132 KV Rangit-Siliguri Transmission Line of Rangit Transmission System in Eastern Region	53.03:46.97

INTEREST ON LOAN

15. As per para 4.4(a) of the notification dated 26.3.2001, Interest on loan capital shall be computed on the outstanding loans, duly taking into account the schedule of repayment, as per the financial package approved by the Authority or any independent agency.

16. The petitioner has claimed interest on loan by taking the closing balance of the loans as on 31.3.2001 as was admitted by Ministry of Power and the Commission for the previous tariff setting as the opening balance as on 1.4.2001.

17. In the calculation, the interest on loan has been worked by us as detailed below:

(i) The gross amount of loan, repayment of loan up to 31.3.2001 and net outstanding loan as on 31.3.2001 as considered by Ministry of Power and the Commission for determination of annual transmission charges for the period up to 31.3.2001 has been considered.

- (ii) The repayment for the year 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 and rate of interest etc. of the above loan has been taken as per/as worked out from the loan details submitted by the petitioner in the affidavits filed before the Commission in the present proceedings.
- (iii) Details of loans repaid before 31.3.2001, have been taken as per previous tariff setting.

18. On the basis of above details, interest on loan has been worked out as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

	Rangit-Rammam and Rangit-Melli Transmission Lines			132 KV Rangit-Siliguri Transmission Line		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Interest on Loan						
Gross Loan - Opening	940.00	940.00	940.00	1479.00	1479.00	1479.00
Cumulative Repayment upto Previous Year	581.00	838.00	841.40	915.00	1318.00	1323.40
Net Loan-Opening	359.00	102.00	98.60	564.00	161.00	155.60
Repayment during the year	257.00	3.40	14.73	403.00	5.40	23.23
Net Loan-Closing	102.00	98.60	83.87	161.00	155.60	132.37
Interest	33.68	10.58	9.80	52.89	16.71	15.48

19. The differences in the petitioner's claim on account of interest on loan and that allowed by us is on account of the fact that the petitioner has calculated the interest for the whole month, though we have calculated interest in accordance with the repayment schedule indicated by the petitioner.

DEPRECIATION

20. With regard to depreciation, para 4(b) of the notification dated 26.3.2001 provides:

- (i) The value base for the purpose of depreciation shall be the historical cost of the asset.
- (ii) Depreciation shall be calculated annually as per straight-line method at the rate of depreciation as prescribed in the Schedule attached to the notification.

Provided that the total depreciation during the life of the project shall not exceed 90% of the approved Original Cost. The approved original cost shall include additional capitalisation on account of foreign exchange rate variation also.

- (iv) On repayment of entire loan, the remaining depreciable value shall be spread over the balance useful life of the asset.
- (v) Depreciation shall be chargeable from the first year of operation. In case of operation of the asset for part of the year, depreciation shall be charged on pro-rata basis.
- (vi) Depreciation against assets relating to environmental protection shall be allowed on case-to-case basis at the time of fixation of tariff subject to the condition that the environmental standards as prescribed have been complied with during the previous tariff period.

21. The petitioner has claimed the depreciation on the capital expenditure in accordance with above principles.

22. Based on the above provisions of the notification dated 26.3.2001, the depreciation for individual items of capital expenditure has been calculated on the capital cost for each of the assets given at para 5 above at the rates as prescribed in the notification dated 26.3.2001. While approving depreciation component of tariff, the weighted average depreciation rate has been worked out. For working out cumulative depreciation, the depreciation as per considered by Ministry of Power and the Commission for the previous tariff setting has been taken into consideration. The break up of the capital cost has been considered as per the details furnished by the petitioner. The calculations in support of depreciation allowed are appended hereinbelow:

(Rs. in lakh)

	Rangit-Rammam and Rangit-Melli Transmission Lines				132 KV Rangit-Siliguri Transmission Line			
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Rate of Depreciation	2.71%				2.63%			
Depreciable Value	1567.82				2509.97			
Remaining Depreciable Value		1206.82	1128.48	1081.19		2208.68	2085.43	2012.07
Depreciation		47.29	47.29	47.29		73.36	73.36	73.36

ADVANCE AGAINST DEPRECIATION

23. In addition to allowable depreciation, the petitioner becomes entitled to Advance Against Depreciation when originally scheduled loan repayment exceeds the depreciation allowable as per schedule to the notification dated 26.3.2001. Advance Against Depreciation is computed in accordance with the following formula:

AAD = Originally scheduled loan repayment amount subject to a ceiling of $1/12^{\text{th}}$ of original loan amount minus depreciation as per schedule.

24. The petitioner has claimed Advance Against Depreciation

25. For working out Advance Against Depreciation, $1/12^{\text{th}}$ of the notional loan has been considered while repayment of loan as worked out above has been taken as repayment of the loan during the year. The petitioner is entitled to Advance Against Depreciation as calculated below:

(Rs. in lakh)

	Rangit-Rammam and Rangit-Melli Transmission Lines			132 KV Rangit-Siliguri Transmission Line		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1/12th of Gross Loan(s)	78.33	78.33	78.33	123.25	123.25	123.25
Scheduled Repayment of the Loan(s)	257.00	3.40	14.73	403.00	5.40	23.23
Minimum of the above	78.33	3.40	14.73	123.25	5.40	23.23
Depreciation during the year	47.29	47.29	47.29	73.36	73.36	73.36
Advance against Depreciation	31.04	0.00	0.00	49.89	0.00	0.00

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE EXPENSES

26. In accordance with the notification, Operation and Maintenance expenses, including expenses on insurance, if any, are to be calculated as under:

- i) Where O&M expenses, excluding abnormal O&M expenses, if any, on sub-station (OMS) and line (OML) are separately available for each region, these shall be normalised by dividing them by number of bays and line length respectively. Where data as aforesaid is not available, O&M expenses in the region are to be apportioned to the sub-station

and lines on the basis of 30:70 ratio and these are to be normalised as below:

$$\text{O\&M expenses per Unit of the line length in Kms (OMLL)} = \frac{\text{Expenses for lines (OML)}}{\text{Average line length in Kms (LL)}}$$

$$\text{O\&M expenses for sub-stations (OMBN)} = \frac{\text{O\&M expenses for substations (OMB)}}{\text{Average number of bays (BN)}}$$

- ii) The five years average of the normalised O&M expenses for lines and for bays for the period 1995-96 to 1999-2000 is to be escalated at 10% per annum for two years (1998-99 and 1999-2000) to arrive at normative O&M expenses per unit of line length and per bay for 1999-2000.
- iii) The normative O&M per unit length and normative O&M per bay for the year 1999-2000 for the region derived in the preceding paragraph is to be escalated @ 6% per annum to obtain normative values of O&M expenses per unit per line length and per bay in the relevant year. These normative values are to be multiplied by line length and number of bays (as the case may be) in a given system in that year to compute permissible O&M expenses for the system.
- iv) The escalation factor of 6% per annum is to be used to revise normative base figure of O&M expenses. Any deviation of the escalation factor computed from the actual inflation data that lies within 20% of the notified escalation factor of 6% shall be absorbed by utilities/beneficiaries.

27. The different elements of Operation & Maintenance expenses have been considered in the succeeding paragraphs in the light of provisions of the notification dated 26.3.2001 based on the data available since 1995-96.

Employee Cost

28. The petitioner has, inter alia, claimed incentive and *ex gratia* as a part of employee cost. The petitioner was asked to specify the amount of minimum statutory bonus paid to its employees under the Payment of Bonus Act. The petitioner vide its affidavit dated 6.2.2003 has stated that the incentive paid to employees does not include minimum statutory bonus. The petitioner has further stated that the *ex gratia* was being paid in lieu of bonus, as is customary and a normal practice followed in private and public sectors. The petitioner has also furnished a write-up on Incentive scheme in support of the claim. It has been clarified on behalf of the petitioner that even the top management of the petitioner company is paid incentive and *ex gratia* included as a part of employee cost in O&M expenses claimed. The payment of incentive other than the statutory minimum bonus is at the discretion of the petitioner company and should be borne out of its profits or incentive earned from the respondents for higher availability of the Transmission System. In view of the above, the incentive and *ex gratia* payments made by the petitioner to its employees have been kept out of consideration for calculation of employee cost.

29. The petitioner was directed to furnish details of the arrears on account of pay and allowances for the period prior to 1995-96, but paid between 1995-96 to 1999-2000. The petitioner has submitted the details of such arrears, amounting to Rs.48.21 lakh and Rs 53.17 lakh paid for Eastern Region during 1995-96 and 1996-97.

Similarly, the arrears for the previous years included in the employee cost for 1995-96 and 1996-97 for Corporate Office were stated to be Rs. 9.61 lakh and Rs. 35.60 lakh. The petitioner has also submitted that the arrears on account of pay revision from 01.01.97 to 31.03.2000 have been paid during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 also. The amounts of these arrears as claimed by the petitioner are Rs.159.26 lakh and Rs.(-) Rs.4.39 lakh for Eastern Region and Rs. 297.13 lakh and Rs. 109.95 lakh for the Corporate Office for the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively. The petitioner has prayed that the arrears on account of pay and allowances for the period prior to 1995-96 should be deducted while those pertaining to the period from 1995-96 to 1999-2000 but paid subsequent to 1999-2000 should be added to O&M charges. The petitioner has argued that since these pay arrears pertain to the period being considered for fixation of normative O&M, the arrears should be considered while fixing the normative O&M. We find the submission of the petitioner to be logical and have considered the submission in the calculation of employee cost.

Repair & Maintenance Expenses

30. WBSEB has stated that the petitioner has not furnished sufficient explanation for about 81% increase in repair and maintenance expenses during 1997-98 over those of 1996-97. It is noted that the petitioner has explained that this variation is due to major repair in Kahalgaon-Biharshariff line due to collapse of tower. . Major repair is not a regular phenomenon, and hence expenses on this account have to be excluded from the process of normalisation. Therefore, "repair and maintenance" expenses in 1998-99 have been limited to Rs.399.68 lakh (20% over and above the "repair and maintenance" expenses for the year 1996-97). However, if any major repairs are undertaken during the tariff period covered by this order, the petitioner may approach

the Commission with proper justification to claim the actual expenses as a part of O&M expenses.

Power Charges

31. In case of Corporate Office, the power charges as claimed by the petitioner have been considered in the calculation of O&M expenses. In case of Eastern Regional Transmission System (ERTS) the petitioner was directed to submit break up of power charges between substation facilities and the residential colonies. The petitioner in its affidavits filed in these proceedings has submitted the break up. Since, power charges for residential quarters in the colony are recoverable from the employees, such charges amounting to Rs 13.96 lakh, Rs 15.19 lakh, Rs 22.4 lakh, Rs 48.77 lakh and Rs 32.47 lakh for the five years from 1995-96 to 1999-2000 have been deducted from the total power charges claimed by the petitioner for the purpose of normalisation.

Insurance

32. It has been noted that the petitioner has a policy of self-insurance for which it has created the insurance reserve. The insurance charges claimed by the petitioner are credited to the insurance reserve. The petitioner was directed to furnish the management policy on creation of insurance reserve, items of loss secured and the conditions thereto. The petitioner has submitted insurance policy of the petitioner company under affidavit dated 6.2.2003. The key features of the policy submitted by the petitioner are as under:

- (a) Insurance reserve is created @ 0.1% on gross value of fixed assets at the close of the year, to meet the future losses arising from uninsured

risks, except machinery breakdown for valve hall of HVDC, and fire risk of HVDC equipment and SVC sub-stations.

(b) The policy generally covers following:

- (i) Fire, lightning, explosion/implosion, and bush fire
- (ii) Natural calamity: flood, earthquake, storm, cyclone, typhoon, tempest, hurricane, tornado, subsidence and landslide
- (iii) Riot, strike/ malicious and terrorist damage
- (iv) Theft, burglary, Missile testing equipment, impact damage due to rail/ road or animal, aircraft and articles dropped there from.

(c) The losses of assets caused by the above causes are adjusted against insurance reserve as per the corporation guidelines.

(d) The amount so set aside in the insurance reserve has not been separately claimed from the respondents and the expenses have been met from the permitted O&M charges under the tariff.

33. The petitioner has stated that the policy of self-insurance has also been followed by NHPC, where 0.5% per annum of the gross block of O&M projects is transferred to self-insurance reserve account. It has also been informed that the rate of 0.1% as booked under O&M expenses towards self-insurance reserve is lower than the insurance premium (0.22%) being charged by the insurance companies for the risks covered in the self-insurance policy. In support of this claim, the petitioner has placed on record a letter from Reliance General Insurance Company quoting for the insurance rate of the assets covered in the self-insurance policy of the petitioner company.

34. In view of the explanation furnished on behalf of the petitioner, the insurance charges as claimed have been considered in O&M expenses. We, however, make it explicit that the self-insurance provided by the petitioner is for replacement of the damaged assets and the beneficiaries shall not be charged anything in case of damage due to any of the events mentioned in the insurance policy.

35. In case of Training & Recruitment expenses, Communication expenses, Traveling, Rent, and Miscellaneous Expenses as claimed by the petitioner have been considered for calculation, both in the case of the ERTS as well as Corporate Office.

Other Expenses

36. In case of ERTS, the petitioner has stated that the provisions are made for the losses and shortage of store materials and for the doubtful advances paid to contractors. Since all these items are controllable by the petitioner and reflect the managerial efficiency of the petitioner, the provisions made in case of ERTS on this account have not been considered as admissible for reimbursement. In case of Corporate Office, the following expenses have not been admitted for reimbursement:

- (a) Donation of Rs. 0.05 lakh, Rs. 30 lakh, Rs. 34.78 lakh and Rs. 600.03 lakh for the years 1995-96, 1996-97, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, as these donations are not related to transmission business. The expenditure on account of the donations need be borne by the petitioner out of other profits of the corporation.
- (b) Provisions of Rs. 1107.61 lakh, Rs. 385.8 lakh and Rs. 0.27 lakh for the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1999-2000. These provisions were made

for the loss of stores in Eastern Region and North Eastern Region, for bad and doubtful debt in Northern Region and for shortage of store in North Eastern Region. The petitioner has stated that provision of loss of store in Eastern Region (Rs 863.16 lakh in 1996-97) and provision of bad and doubtful debt in Northern Region (Rs 385.80 lakh in 1997-98) were written back during subsequent years in the regional books of account. In view of this, the petitioner has submitted that these expenses need not be considered while fixing the O&M of the respective regions. As all these items are controllable by the petitioner and reflect the managerial efficiency. However, an amount of Rs. 11.14 lakh on account of fire at the corporate office in 1998-99 has been considered as admissible under the head provisions.

- (c) Legal expenses amounting to Rs. 2.65 lakh in the Corporate Office on legal opinion on CERC matters have not been allowed in line with the Commission's policy of allowing only the fees for the petitions filed in the Commission. However, other legal expenses for disputes related to compensation, contracts, service matters and labour cases have been admitted.

Recoveries

37. The details of the recoveries for the ERTS and the Corporate Office were furnished by the petitioner vide affidavit dated 6th February 2003. The petitioner in the aforesaid affidavit also furnished the "complete details" of the recoveries for the ERTS. According to the petitioner, the income from sale of bid documents has already been adjusted for under the sub-head Tender Expenses under the head Other Expenses.

Hence, income under this sub-head has not been considered in the recovery for the ERTS as well as Corporate Office. Similarly, electricity charges recovered/recoverable from employees residential buildings and other residential buildings have not been considered under the head “recovery” as the power charges for colony consumption have been deducted in case of the ERTS.

Allocation of Corporate Office Expenses to Various Regions

38. The petitioner has submitted the method for allocation of Corporate Office expenses to various Regions. The key steps in the apportionment of Corporate Office expenses among the regions are as under:

- i) Expenses booked under Training & Recruitment, Directors sitting fees, provisions, R&D, Write off of fixed assets/ non-operating expenses and donations are considered exclusively as O&M expenses.
- ii) After deducting these exclusive O&M expenses, the balance Corporate Office expenses are allocated in the ratio of Transmission charges to annual Capital outlay to obtain expenses allocated to O&M and construction activity.
- iii) The allocation to O&M activity obtained in step (ii) is added to exclusive O&M expenses obtained in step (i) to arrive at total O&M expenses in the Corporate Office.
- iv) RLDC expenses are then deducted from the total O&M expenses obtained in step (iii) to arrive at O&M expenses allocated to transmission business.

- v) O&M expenses allocated to transmission business are then allocated to various regions in the ratio of their respective transmission charges.

39. The methodology adopted by the petitioner for allocation of Corporate Office O&M expenses has been approved and followed in the calculation of O&M expenses. The comparative statement of O&M expenses claimed by the petitioner and those allowed and considered for the years 1995-96 to 1999-2000 for the purpose of computation of O&M expenses for the tariff period are given herein below:

**DETAILS OF O&M EXPENSES FOR POWERGRID SYSTEM IN
EASTERN REGION**

(All Figures in Rs. Lakhs)

Items	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	As per Petitioner	As allowed for	As per Petitioner	As allowed for	As per Petitioner	As allowed for	As per Petitioner	As allowed for	As per Petitioner	As allowed for
Employee Cost	1003.20	843.52	1236.89	1108.76	1672.90	1600.67	1970.16	1907.01	2551.38	2167.94
Repair & Maintenance	263.18	263.18	333.07	333.07	602.04	399.68	407.97	407.97	533.34	533.34
Power Charges	302.04	288.08	367.49	352.30	400.30	377.90	378.85	330.08	407.02	374.55
Training & Recruitment	15.17	15.17	9.14	9.14	5.12	5.12	18.25	18.25	2.32	2.32
Communications	106.71	106.71	99.94	99.94	113.20	113.20	112.85	112.85	86.81	86.81
Travelling	193.08	193.08	191.47	191.47	228.42	228.42	236.18	236.18	270.55	270.55
Printing & Stationery	15.82	15.82	15.84	15.84	18.06	18.06	20.69	20.69	16.00	16.00
Rent	14.06	14.06	13.64	13.64	16.16	16.16	16.33	16.33	15.76	15.76
Miscellaneous Expenses	210.50	210.50	269.26	269.26	283.90	283.90	375.72	375.72	533.27	533.27
Insurance	6.78	6.78	7.99	7.99	98.26	98.26	102.58	102.58	104.55	104.55
Others	76.41	71.51	64.24	60.17	176.36	120.52	493.99	395.28	75.44	75.44
Corporate Expenses Allocation	536.01	524.66	414.68	204.09	391.89	338.04	349.15	348.38	402.73	325.67
TOTAL	2742.96	2553.07	3023.65	2665.67	4006.61	3599.94	4482.72	4271.32	4999.17	4506.20
Less : Recoveries		23.78		64.49		13.18		10.01		15.64
Net O&M Expenses	2742.96	2529.29	3023.65	2601.18	4006.61	3586.76	4482.72	4261.31	4999.17	4490.56

NOTE: Only charges for power consumption at sub-stations has been considered admissible

Method of Normalizing O&M Expenses

40. The following formulae for calculation of normative O&M expenses as per the notification, as amended vide Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in the Gazette of India on 2.6.2003 have been followed

$$AVOMLL = \frac{1}{5} \sum_{i=1995-1996}^{1999-2000} \frac{OML_i}{LL_i}$$

$$AVOMBN = \frac{1}{5} \sum_{i=1995-1996}^{1999-2000} \frac{OMS_i}{BN_i}$$

Where:

AVOMLL and AVOMBN are average normalized O&M expenses per Ckt. km of line length and per bay respectively.

OML_i and OMS_i are O&M expenses for the lines and for the sub-stations for the ith year respectively.

LL_i and BN_i are the total line length in Ckt. km and total number of bays in the ith year respectively.

41. In the process of normalisation, abnormal expenses such as expenses on account of additional security have to be deducted as per the notification, for which the petitioner may file separate petition. Accordingly, the amount of Rs 23.33 lakhs, Rs 0.68 lakhs, Rs 24.78 lakhs and Rs 143.56 lakhs spent on CISF security at Salakati Sub-station of the Chukha Transmission System for the years 1996-97 to 1999-2000 has been deducted from the total O&M expenses for the region.

42. As per the above method, AVOMLL and AVOMBN are calculated based on the data for the years 1995-96 to 1999-2000. These normalised averages correspond to the year 1997-98. After escalating these averages by 10% per annum for two years, the normative O&M expenses for the base year 1999-2000 have been obtained. Normative O&M expenses for subsequent years are obtained by escalating these normative figures by 6% per annum. Following table gives comparison of the normative O&M expenses as calculated by the petitioner and as per our calculations allowed for the base year i.e. 1999-2000 and afterwards:

NORMALIZED O&M EXPENSES FOR EASTERN REGION

(All Figures in Rs. Lakhs)

S. NO.	Items	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total for five years 95-96 to 99-00	99-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	Total O&M expenses(Rs. Lakhs)	2529.29	2601.18	3586.76	4261.31	4490.56						
2	Abnormal O&M expenses	0.00	23.33	0.68	24.78	143.56	192.35					
3	Normal O&M expenses (S.No. 1 -S.NO. 2)	2529.29	2577.85	3586.08	4236.53	4347.00						
4	OML (O&M for lines)= 0.7 X S. NO.3	1770.50	1804.49	2510.25	2965.57	3042.90	12093.71					
5	OMS (O&M for substation) = 0.3XS.NO.3	758.79	773.35	1075.82	1270.96	1304.10	5183.02					
6	Line length at beginning of the year in Kms.	4418.70	4418.70	4418.70	4482.70	4665.70						
7	Line length added in the year in Kms.	0.00	0.00	64.00	183.00	86.00						
8	Line length at end of the year in Kms.	4418.70	4418.70	4482.70	4665.70	4751.70						
9	LL (Average line length in the Region)	4418.70	4418.70	4450.70	4574.20	4708.70	22571.00					
10	NO. of bays at beginning of the year	76	88	88	90	92						
11	NO. of bays added in the year	12	0	2	2	1						
12	NO. of bays at the end of the year	88	88	90	92	93						
13	BN (Average number of bays in the Region)	82.0	88.0	89.0	91.0	92.5	442.50					
14	AVOMLL(OML/LL)	0.40	0.41	0.56	0.65	0.65	2.668					
15	AVOMBN(OMS/BN)	9.25	8.79	12.09	13.97	14.10	58.194					
16	NOMLL (allowable O&M per unit of line length)			0.5335	0.5869	0.6456		0.6456	0.6843	0.7254	0.7689	0.8150
17	NOMBN (Allowable O&M per bay)			11.6389	12.8028	14.0831		14.0831	14.9280	15.8237	16.7731	17.7795
18	NOMLL (as calculated by petitioner)			0.6000				0.7300	0.7700	0.8200	0.8700	0.9200
19	NOMBN (as calculated by petitioner)			13.0500				15.7900	16.7400	17.7400	18.8000	19.9300

43. The differences in NOMLL and NOMBAN as calculated by the petitioner and as allowed are mainly on account of certain expenses disallowed by us as explained in preceding paragraphs. Using these normative values, O&M charges have been calculated.

44. In our calculations the escalation factor of 6% per annum has been used. In accordance with the notification, if the escalation factor computed from the observed data lies in the range of 4.8% to 7.2%, this variation shall be absorbed by the petitioner. In case of deviation beyond this limit, adjustment shall be made on by applying actual escalation factor arrived at on the basis of weighted price index of CPI for industrial workers (CPI_IW) and index of selected component of WPI (WPI_TR).

45. The details of O&M expenses allowed are given hereunder:

Name of the Element	2001-02			2002-03			2003-04		
	Line length in Ckm	No. of bays	O&M expenses (Rs. in lakh)	Line length in Ckm	No. of bays	O&M expenses (Rs. in lakh)	Line length in Ckm	No. of bays	O&M expenses (Rs. in lakh)
Rangit-Rammam and Rangit-Melli Transmission Lines	64	2	78.070	64	2	82.755	64	2	87.720
(ii) 132 KV Rangit-Siliguri Transmission Line	183	2	164.388	183	2	174.251	183	2	184.706

RETURN ON EQUITY

46. In accordance with the notification dated 26.3.2001, the petitioner is entitled to return on equity at the rate of 16% per annum. For the purpose of tariff equity as considered for the previous tariff setting has been considered. On the above basis, the petitioner shall be entitled to return on equity each year during the tariff period.

(Rs. in lakh)			
Name of the element	Total Equity	Rate of Return	Return on Equity
Rangit-Rammam and Rangit-Melli Transmission Lines	802.00	16%	128.32
132 KV Rangit-Siliguri Transmission Line	1309.85	16%	209.58

INTEREST ON WORKING CAPITAL

47. As provided in the notification dated 26.3.2001, the interest on working capital shall cover:

- (a) Operation and maintenance expenses (cash) for one month;
- (b) Maintenance spares at a normative rate of 1% of the capital cost less 1/5th of the initial capitalised spares. Cost of maintenance spares for each subsequent year shall be revised at the rate applicable for revision of expenditure on O & M of the transmission system; and
- (c) Receivables equivalent to two months' average billing calculated on normative availability level, which is 98%.

48. In keeping with the methodology prescribed in the notification dated 26.3.2001, working capital has been worked out. In the calculation, maintenance spares for the year 2001-02 to 2003-04 have been worked out on the basis of capital expenditure up to 31.03.2001 allowed by the Commission earlier, and after deduction of 1/5th of the initial capitalised spares therefrom. This has been escalated up to 2000-01 as per respective WPI/CPI and thereafter the same has been further escalated @ 6% per annum for the tariff period 2001-02 to 2003-04. In the calculations, the cost of initial spares has been taken as 'nil'. The petitioner has claimed interest on working capital at the rate of 11.5%, based on annual SBI PLR for the year 2001-2002, which has

been allowed separately by the Commission in certain other petitions and, therefore, the same has been allowed here also despite the objection by some of the respondents. The detailed calculations in support of interest on Working Capital are as under:

Interest on Working Capital

(Rs. In lakh)

	Rangit-Rammam and Rangit-Melli Transmission Lines				132 KV Rangit-Siliguri Transmission Line			
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Escalation for Maintenance Spares	6%				6%			
Period in 2000-2001					1.00			
On Capital expenditures up to 31.3.2000					30.14			
On capital expenditures during the year 2000-01					0.00			
Maintenance spares	20.43				30.14			
Less 1/5 th of initial spares	0.00				0.00			
Maintenance spares	20.43	21.66	22.96	24.33	30.14	31.95	33.87	35.90
O&M expenses		6.51	6.90	7.31		13.70	14.52	15.39
Receivables		54.66	46.28	47.03		94.37	81.47	83.10
Total		82.82	76.13	78.67		140.02	129.86	134.39
Rate of Interest		11.50%	11.50%	11.50%		11.50%	11.50%	11.50%
Interest		9.52	8.76	9.05		16.10	14.93	15.45

TRANSMISSION CHARGES

49. In the light of above discussion, we approve the transmission charges as given in the Table below:

TABLE

(Rs. in lakh)

	Rangit-Rammam and Rangit-Melli Transmission Lines			132 KV Rangit-Siliguri Transmission Line		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Interest on Loan	33.68	10.58	9.80	52.89	16.71	15.48
Interest on Working Capital	9.52	8.76	9.05	16.10	14.93	15.45
Depreciation	47.29	47.29	47.29	73.36	73.36	73.36
Advance against Depreciation	31.04	0.00	0.00	49.89	0.00	0.00
Return on Equity	128.32	128.32	128.32	209.58	209.58	209.58
O & M Expenses	78.07	82.76	87.72	164.39	174.25	184.71
Total	327.93	277.70	282.18	566.21	488.83	498.57

50. In addition to the transmission charges, the petitioner shall be entitled to other charges like Development Surcharge, income tax, incentive, surcharge and other cess and taxes in accordance with the notification dated 26.3.2001, subject to directions if any, of the superior courts. The petitioner shall also be entitled to recovery of filing fee of Rs 2 lakh, which shall be recovered from the respondents in five monthly installments of Rupees forty thousand each and shall be shared by the respondents in the same ratio as other transmission charges. This is subject to confirmation that the amount is not already included in the O&M charges.

51. The petitioner is already billing the respondents on provisional basis in accordance with the Commission's notification dated 4.4.2001 as extended from time to time. The provisional billing of tariff shall be adjusted in the light of final tariff now approved by us.

52. The transmission charges approved by us shall be included in the regional transmission tariff for Eastern Region and shall be shared by the regional constituents in accordance with the notification dated 26.3.2001.

53. This order disposes of Petition No.62/2002.

Sd/-
(K.N. SINHA)
MEMBER

Sd/-
(G.S. RAJAMANI)
MEMBER

Sd/-
(ASHOK BASU)
CHAIRMAN

New Delhi dated the 6th August, 2003