

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 200/MP/2019

- Subject : Petition under Section 38(2) of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Section 79 (1)(c) and 79 (1)(k) of the Act, along with (i) Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Regulatory Approval for execution of Inter-State Transmission Scheme to Central Transmission Utility) Regulations, 2010, (ii) Regulations 111 and 114 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 1999 and (iii) Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of Inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses) Regulations, 2010 for grant of Regulatory Approval for execution of Transmission System for 18.5 GW of Solar and Wind Energy Zones in Southern Region.
- Petitioner : Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).
- Respondents : Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) Ors.
- Date of Hearing : 11.6.2020
- Coram : Shri P. K. Pujari, Chairperson
Shri I. S. Jha, Member
Shri Arun Goyal, Member
- Parties present : Shri M. G. Ramachandran, Sr. Advocate, PGCIL
Shri Shubham Arya, Advocate, PGCIL
Ms. Jyoti Prasad, PGCIL
Shri Mukesh Khanna, PGCIL
Shri Ramji Srinivasan, Sr Advocate, TANGEDCO
Shri S. Vallinayagam, Advocate, TANGEDCO and AP Discoms
Dr. R. Kathiravan, TANGEDCO
Shri Shahbaaz Husain, Advocate, KPTCL
Shri R. K. Agarwal, SECI

Record of Proceedings

The matter was listed for hearing through video conferencing.

2. Learned senior counsel for the Petitioner submitted that present Petition has been filed seeking regulatory approval for execution of the Transmission System for 18.5 GW of Solar and Wind Energy Zones in Southern Region. Learned senior counsel further submitted as under:



(a) The Petitioner vide its affidavit dated 4.5.2020 has filed the information called for through Record of Proceeding of the hearing dated 12.2.2020, .

(b) The Petitioner, in its reply, has indicated that the Transmission System at Koppal, Gadag and Bider can be implemented independently without implementing the complete Transmission System.

(c) The Transmission System for 18.5 GW of identified Solar and Wind Energy Zones in Southern Region was agreed in 1st and 2nd SRSC (Southern Region Standing Committee on Transmission) meetings held on 7.9.2018 and 10.6.2019 respectively and has been planned in two parts, namely, Part A - for 8.5 GW of power from Phase-I and Phase-II Wind Energy Zone and 1.5 GW of Phase-I Solar Energy Zones in Kurnool and Part B - for balance 8.5 GW of SEZ.

(d) Part A of the Transmission System was discussed in 2nd NCT and 3rd NCT meetings held on 4.12.2018 and 21.12.2018 respectively, whereas Part B of Transmission System was discussed in 4th NCT meeting held on 31.7.2019.

(f) The provisions of spare transmission elements and space for future expansion was also discussed in the 4th ECT meeting held on 31.7.2019 and the Petitioner, in its reply, has indicated the additional scope of the Transmission Scheme for future provisions and spares.

3. Learned senior counsel for TANGEDCO submitted that TANGEDCO has already placed its position/submission in the affidavits dated 9.8.2019 and 29.10.2019. Learned senior counsel referred to the minutes of the meeting dated 11.2.2020 and submitted as under:

(a) In terms of the said meeting, SECI/NIWE was to re-assess the developable potential in Southern Region duly considering the availability of land , and road & infrastructure facilities in co-ordination with State Utilities/ Nodal agency/ Revenue Authorities and share the base case data and developable potential assessment report etc. with the beneficiaries. However, no such re-assessment has been undertaken or provided to the beneficiaries.

(b) CTU was required to re-assess the transmission requirements and conduct fresh joint system studies based on the developable potential report to be furnished by SECI/NIWE and share it with the beneficiaries for further deliberations.

(c) During the meeting, SECI was categorically asked whether any input data/feedback regarding availability and ownership of waste land has been taken from State Revenue Department to which SECI informed that it has not taken any such inputs/ feedback.

(d) Even NIWE has considered the waste land availability on broad assumption of 80% without taking any inputs/feedbacks from the State Revenue Department. It was also pointed out that there is no land available in Coimbatore, Karur, Tirupur, Trichy and Pugalur as these are predominantly



industrial areas and considering availability of 80% waste land is wrong and misleading.

(e) TANGEDCO had also pointed out that Transmission System by CTU has been planned only on the basis of theoretical/technical assessment data given by SECI/NIWE as it is neither based on firmed up generators nor based on identified beneficiaries, but merely on imaginary assessed potential.

(f) CTU was required to conduct All India studies for integration of wind/solar from Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) planned with nine different scenarios. However, studies have been conducted only for one scenario. POSOCO had also raised its concerns regarding RE transmission planning studies conducted by CTU.

(g) CTU was also required to consult the beneficiaries to ascertain as to whether the existing network is sufficient for the evacuation of RE power or not. According to TANGEDCO, the existing network is sufficient to evacuate the upcoming RE power.

(h) Accordingly, the Commission may direct SECI/NIWE to re-assess the RE Potential and consequently CTU to re-assess the Transmission System requirement.

4. Learned counsel for AP Discoms, adopted the arguments of learned senior counsel for TANGEDCO and submitted that in the State of Andhra Pradesh, no land is available for development of Solar/Wind Projects by SECI.

5. The representative of SECI submitted that in respect of Koppal and Gadag in the State of Karnataka, there are no land issues and Government of Karnataka has already identified the land. For Koppal sub-station, an application for connectivity for 300 MW has already been received. Also, for Koppal, SECI has issued tender for 2500 MW Solar Projects in Koppal Solar Park, which is due on 29.6.2020. Accordingly, the approval to the transmission system planned for RE potential of 7.5 GW in the State of Karnataka can be granted. The representative of SECI further submitted that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that the land earlier identified to be allotted/ already allotted to SECI is now proposed to be utilised by AP Government for development of its own RE Projects. However, stage- I connectivity application for 1700 MW has been received in Kurnool area (AP) and more applications are expected considering the number of SECI tenders in pipeline. For Tamil Nadu, in the meeting held on 11.2.2020, it was discussed that the RE Potential was assessed by SECI/NIWE based on established principles. However, the State Revenue Authorities were not approached with regard to availability of land. The representative of SECI submitted that in these areas, the successful bidders will acquire the land themselves, which has been a successful model in past as well. He also added that the initial three points referred to by TANGEDCO are its requests only as put in the covering note through which minutes were forwarded and are not the part of minutes of meeting.

6. Learned senior counsel for the Petitioner submitted that as far as submissions of TANGEDCO regarding assessment of existing network for evacuation of envisaged RE capacity is concerned, in the minutes of the meeting, it has been clearly indicated that the existing networks/lines will get heavily loaded and will



require up-gradation/ additional network. Learned senior counsel further added that the transmission systems are required to be implemented well in advance prior to coming up of RE generation and accordingly, the transmission systems where there are no land issues be allowed to be taken up in the first phase.

7. The representative of CTU also confirmed that for Koppal, 300 MW connectivity application has been received. For Kurnool, while 1700 MW Stage I connectivity application has been received, it is for the existing network itself and not for the new system. For Bider, CTU has received a e-mail from SECI stating that transmission system for Bider RE Zone may be kept on hold as land therein is yet to be firmed up.

8. In response to the specific query of the Commission as to why SECI doesn't apply for connectivity/LTA as per the Regulations which can be subsequently transferred to successful bidders/developers, the representative of SECI submitted that for Koppal, tender of 2500 MW for setting up of a Solar Project in Solar Park has already been issued and it would be the Solar Park Developing Agency who would be applying for connectivity and LTA. Similar action will be taken for Gadag also. The representative of SECI further submitted that there are other tenders for around 11,000 MW capacity (out of which, 2000 MW Wind tender on 9.7.2020, 2000 MW Solar tender on 22.6.2020 and 5000 MW RTC tender on 3.7.2020) are under process and the RE generators/developers are expected to come up thereunder and apply for connectivity.

9. In response to further query of the Commission as to whether all the requirements under the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Planning, Coordination and Development of Economic and Efficient Inter-State Transmission System by Central Transmission Utility and other related matters) Regulations, 2018 ('Transmission Planning Regulations') have been complied with in respect of subject Transmission Scheme, the representative of CTU submitted that the All India Studies were conducted and results were uploaded on CTU website as well as circulated to stakeholders for comments/observations in December, 2019. Based on the comments/observations received from the stakeholders and POSOCO, nine load-generation scenarios were developed and the same were also uploaded on CTU website as well as circulated to the stakeholders for further comments/observations. The comments/observations are awaited from stakeholders on nine scenarios and subsequently the same shall be discussed with stakeholders. He further submitted that CTU has complied with the provisions of the Transmission Planning Regulations and status of RPC recommendation has already been submitted. The representative of CTU further added that Koppal PS which was initially planned for Wind Energy Zone as per potential identified by SECI/MNRE, has now been covered in the Solar Energy Zone generation potential pursuant to issuance of SECI's tender for Solar Projects.

10. After hearing the learned counsels and the representatives of the parties, the Commission observed that as far as REZ of Koppal and Gadag are concerned, there are no land issues. Also, CTU has confirmed that the Transmission Scheme for these areas can be developed independently and that at present, connectivity application for 300 MW for Koppal has been received. However, as various tenders of SECI for the setting up of Wind/Solar Projects are already underway and Wind/Solar developers are expected to come up and apply for connectivity/LTA, the



Commission adjourned the matter and decided that the matter shall be taken for hearing after receiving response in respect of various tenders of SECI. The Commission directed SECI to file affidavit indicating the outcome of various tenders by 10.7.2020. The Commission directed CTU to file affidavit by 14.7.2020 to the effect that all requirements under the Transmission Planning Regulations have been complied with and to submit the status of the connectivity/LTA applications pursuant to SECI's various tenders.

11. The Petition shall be listed for hearing in due course for which separate notice shall be issued.

By order of the Commission

**Sd/-
(T.D. Pant)
Deputy Chief (Law)**

