

**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.
- Date of Hearing : 6.8.2020
- Coram : Shri P. K. Pujari, Chairperson
Shri I. S. Jha, Member
Shri ArunGoyal, Member
- Petitioner : Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL)
- Respondents : Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) and 17 Ors.
- Parties present : Shri M. G. Ramachandran, Sr. Advocate, PGCIL
Shri Shubham Arya, Advocate, PGCIL
Shri Ramji Srinivasan, Advocate, TANGEDCO
Shri S.Vallinayagam, Advocate, TANGEDCO and AP Discoms
Shri Shahbaaz Husain, Advocate, KPTCL
Ms. Jyoti Prasad, PGCIL
Shri V. Chandrasekhar, PGCIL
Shri Mukesh Khanna, PGCIL
Dr. R. Kathiravan, TANGEDCO
Ms. B Rajeshwari, TANGEDCO
Ms. R. Ramalakshmi, TANGEDCO
Shri R. K. Agarwal, SECI

Record of Proceedings

The matter was heard through video conferencing.



2. Learned senior counsel for the Petitioner submitted that the instant Petition has been filed for seeking regulatory approval for execution of the Transmission System for 18.5 GW of Solar Energy Zones and Wind Energy Zones in Southern Region (jointly referred to as Renewable Energy Zones or REZ). Learned senior counsel further submitted as under:

(a) The Petitioner vide its affidavit dated 14.7.2020 has filed the information called for through Record of Proceedings of the hearing dated 11.6.2020.

(b) The Petitioner has followed all the procedures and processes stipulated in 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 while planning the transmission system for 18.5 GW of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) in Southern Region. As regards status of connectivity/LTA applications received pursuant to various SECI tenders, the Petitioner has received one Stage-II connectivity application from ReNew Saurya Ojas Private Limited for 300 MW at Koppal. However, the Petitioner has not received any LTA application in the identified REZ.

(c) A meeting was held on 23.7.2020 with CEA, CTU and POSOCO regarding All-India system studies for discussing all 9 different scenarios and to also take a view on the comments received from constituents on earlier studies that were circulated on 20.5.2020. Detailed system studies for all 9 scenarios were uploaded on CTU's website and the same were circulated to Southern Region constituents on 3.8.2020.

(d) On the basis of All-India studies, it has been found that the requirement of the identified transmission system for 18.5 GW REZ in Southern Region has not changed and that such system shall be required in case the potential as envisaged by SECI materializes.

2. The representative of SECI submitted that as noted from the Petitioner's website, some applications for Stage-I/ Stage-II connectivity had been received by CTU from RE developers for Gadag, Koppal, Kurnool and Anantpur areas.

3. In response to a specific query of the Commission as to how availability of land for setting up the projects was being ensured, the representative of SECI submitted that except for the cases where the tenders are issued for setting up Solar Parks, the RE developers are themselves responsible for acquiring the requisite lands. In case of Solar Parks, Solar Park Implementing Agency identifies the land. He further submitted that SECI has already received letters from the Karnataka Solar Power Development Corporation Limited (KSPDCL) dated 17.6.2020 and Government of Andhra Pradesh dated 8.7.2020 indicating the availability of land in the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh respectively. SECI has placed the said letters on record along with its affidavit dated 10.7.2020. As per letter from KSPDCL, owners of 8310 acres of land in Gadag have expressed their interest to sign the agreement with SECI, whereas for Bidar, 2885 acre land has been identified. For Koppal also, land requirement of about 12000 acre has been identified, though the letter for which is not on record.



4. In response to the Commission`s query regarding identification of areas where the issue of availability of land is not there, the representative of SECI stated that for Koppal and Gadag in the State of Karnataka, there is no issue regarding availability of land.

5. Learned senior counsel for TANGEDCO submitted that in compliance with the Commission's direction, the All-India studies for integration of wind/solar from REZ with nine different scenarios have been shared with the Respondent, TANGEDCO on 3.8.2020. Learned senior counsel further submitted that TANGEDCO has already pointed out that there is no land available for development of solar/wind farms in the identified REZ in Tamil Nadu. He added that the Petitioner ought to be directed to prepare a checklist for each of the identified REZ in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu indicating the availability of land, status of bidding and whether LTA applications have been received. The identified transmission system should be approved and taken-up for implementation based on the above assessment and not merely on the basis of projections made by SECI.

6. Learned counsel for AP Discoms sought permission to file reply on the letter dated 8.7.2020 of the Government of Andhra Pradesh indicating the availability of land, as referred to by SECI.

7. Learned counsel for Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) submitted that transmission system relating to Koppal, Gadag and Bidar REZs may be taken up after finalization/firming-up of LTAs and till RE generators apply for LTA, SECI should apply for the LTA in accordance with applicable Regulations.

8. After hearing the parties, the Commission observed that in view of availability of land at Koppal and Gadag, Transmission System for Koppal and Gadag can be considered, if these can be implemented independently without implementing the complete Transmission System. However, a decision in this regard can be taken only after following information is received from the parties. Accordingly, the Commission directed the Petitioner to file the following details/information after discussion/consultation with SECI, on affidavit, by 26.8.2020:

(a) Firm availability of land for each location;

(b) Status of bidding by SECI for each of location;

(c) Status of applications for LTA for each location;

(d) Whether power can be evacuated from each location through existing transmission system or augmentation is required; and

(e) Whether the proposed transmission system for evacuation of power from different locations can be taken up independently and in a phased manner and, if so, the priority of the system to be taken up and the system which may be deferred. Phasing should be keeping in view (a), (b) and (c) above.



9. The Commission further directed SECI to furnish the following information on affidavit, by 26.8.2020:

- (a) Land identified by solar park developer, if any, at each location;
- (b) Availability of land other than land identified by solar park developer at each location; and
- (c) Based on assessment of land availability and expected LTA applications, recommended priority of the transmission systems to be taken up.

10. 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)**

