

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
New Delhi**

Petition No. 100/TT/2025

Coram:

**Shri Ramesh Babu V., Member
Shri Harish Dudani, Member**

Date of Order: 02.02.2026

In the matter of:

Approval under Section 62 read with Section 79 (1) (d) of the Electricity Act, 2003 and under Regulation 15 (1) (a) and Regulation 23 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023 read with Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2019 and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2024 for truing up of transmission tariff for the 2019-24 and the determination of transmission tariff for the 2024-29 tariff block for Combined Assets under “North Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme-II (NERSS-II) Part-A” in the North Eastern Region.

And in the matter of:

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited,
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area,
Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016.
Corporate Centre: ‘Saudamini’, Plot No. 2,
Sector-29, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana.

...Petitioner

Versus

- 1. Assam Power Distribution Company Limited,**
4th Floor, Bijulee Bhawan, Paltan Bazar,
Guwahati – 781001, Assam.
- 2. Meghalaya Energy Corporation Limited,**
Short Round Road, “Lumjingshai”
Shillong – 793001, Meghalaya.
- 3. Government of Arunachal Pradesh,**
Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.
- 4. Power and Electricity Department,**
Government of Mizoram
Aizawl, Mizoram.
- 5. Manipur State Power Distribution Corporation Limited,**
Keishampat, Imphal.

6. **Department of Power,**
Government of Nagaland
Kohima, Nagaland.

7. **Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited,**
Vidyut Bhawan, North Banamalipur,
Agartala, Tripura (W) – 799001, Tripura.

...Respondents

Parties Present : Shri Zafrul Hasan, PGCIL
Shri Angaru Naresh Kumar, PGCIL
Shri Vijay G., PGCIL
Ms. Anshul Garg, PGCIL
Shri Divyanshu Mishra, PGCIL
Shri Arjun Malhotra, PGCIL

ORDER

The Petitioner, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), a deemed transmission licensee, has filed this Petition for true-up of transmission tariff for the 2019-24 period, in terms of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2019 (hereinafter referred to as “the 2019 Tariff Regulations”), and for determination of transmission tariff for the 2024-29 period, in terms of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2024 (hereinafter referred to as “the 2024 Tariff Regulations”), in respect of the following assets (hereinafter referred to as the “Combined Assets”) under “North Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme-II (NERSS-II) Part-A” in the North Eastern Region (hereinafter referred to as the “transmission project”):

Asset Name	Description of Assets	COD	Remarks
Combined Assets	Asset-1: 132/33 kV, 50 MVA, 3-Ph ICT-I at 132/33 kV Nirjuli Sub-Station (POWERGRID)	14.02.2016	All assets were combined as of 1.4.2019, with effective COD: 5.5.2016 and earlier covered in Petition No. 513/TT/2019
	Asset-2: 132/33 kV, 50 MVA, 3-Ph ICT-II at 132/33 kV Nirjuli Sub-Station (POWERGRID)	29.03.2016	
	Asset-3: 400/220 kV, 315 MVA, 3-Ph	28.05.2016	

	ICT-II (2 nd ICT) along with associated bays at 400/220 kV Balipara Sub-station (POWERGRID)		
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2. The Petitioner has made the following prayers in the instant Petition:

- a) Approve the trued-up Transmission Tariff for 2019-24 block and transmission tariff for 2024-29 block for the assets covered under this petition, as per para 14 and 15 above.
- b) Admit the capital cost claimed and additional capitalization incurred during 2019-24 and also allow the projected additional capitalization during 2024-29.
- c) Allow the petitioner to recover the shortfall or refund the excess Annual Fixed Charges, on account of Return on Equity due to change in applicable Minimum Alternate/Corporate Income Tax rate as per the Income Tax Act, 1961 (as amended from time to time) of the respective financial year directly without making any application before the Commission as provided in Tariff Regulations 2019 and Tariff Regulations, 2024 as per para 14 and 15 above for respective block.
- d) Approve the reimbursement of expenditure by the beneficiaries towards petition filing fee, and expenditure on publishing of notices in newspapers in terms of Regulation 94 (1) Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2024, and other expenditure (if any) in relation to the filing of petition.
- e) Allow the petitioner to bill and recover RLDC fees & charges and Licensee fee separately from the respondents in terms of Regulation 94 (3) and (4) Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2024.
- f) Allow the petitioner to bill and adjust impact on Interest on Loan due to change in Interest rate on account of floating rate of interest applicable during 2024-29 period, if any, from the respondents.
- g) Allow the petitioner to file a separate petition before Hon'ble Commission for claiming the overall security expenses and consequential IOWC on that security expenses as mentioned at para 21 above.
- h) Allow the petitioner to file a separate petition before Hon'ble Commission for claiming the overall insurance expenses and consequential IOWC on that insurance expenses as mentioned at para 21 above.
- i) Allow the petitioner to file a separate petition before Hon'ble Commission for claiming the overall capital spares at the end of tariff block as per actual as mentioned at Para 21 above.
- j) Allow the petitioner to claim expenses of CTUIL borne by POWERGRID through a separate petition as mentioned at para 22 above.
- k) Allow the Petitioner to bill and recover GST on Transmission Charges separately from the respondents, if GST on transmission is levied at any rate in future. Further, any taxes including GST and duties including cess etc. imposed by any statutory/Govt./municipal authorities shall be allowed to be recovered from the beneficiaries.

and pass such other relief as Hon'ble Commission deems fit and appropriate under the circumstances of the case and in the interest of justice."

Background

3. The brief facts of the case are as follows:

- (a) The Investment Approval (the IA) for the project was accorded by the

Petitioner's Board of Directors vide Memorandum No. C/CP/NERSS-II Part A dated 26.11.2014, with an estimated cost of ₹2871 lakh, including an IDC of ₹180 lakh, based on the August 2014 price levels.

(b) The Petitioner, in its affidavit dated 14.6.2016 in Petition No. 22/TT/2016, had submitted the revised apportioned approved capital cost for Assets-I, II and III.

(c) The scope of work covered under the transmission project is as follows:

Sub-stations:

- i. Asset I: 132/33 kV, 50 MVA, 3-Ph ICT-I at 132/33 kV Nirjuli Sub- station (POWERGRID);
- ii. Asset II: 132/33 kV, 50 MVA, 3-Ph ICT-II at 132/33 kV Nirjuli Sub- station (POWERGRID), and
- iii. Asset III: 400/220 kV, 315 MVA, 3-Ph ICT-II (2nd ICT) along with associated bays at 400/220 kV Balipara Sub-station (POWERGRID)

(d) The entire scope of the work under the transmission project has been completed. The transmission tariff in respect of Assets-I, II and III was approved by the Commission vide order dated 27.6.2016 in Petition No. 22/TT/2016 for the 2014-19 period from their respective CODs to 31.3.2019. The trued-up transmission tariff for the 2014-19 period and the determination of transmission tariff for the 2019-24 period in respect of the Combined Assets were approved by the Commission vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019.

4. The Respondents in the Petition are primarily the beneficiaries in the North Eastern Region, comprising designated Inter-State Transmission Customers (hereinafter referred to as 'DICs'), distribution licensees, transmission licensees, and power departments that procure transmission services from the Petitioner.

5. The Petitioner has served a copy of the Petition on the Respondents and

published notices regarding the filing of this Petition in newspapers, in accordance with Section 64 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”). No comments or suggestions have been received from the general public in response to the said notices. None of the Respondents has filed a reply to the Petition.

6. The hearing in this matter was held on 27.11.2025, and the order was reserved. This order is being issued after considering the Petitioner’s submissions in the Petition vide affidavit dated 7.9.2024, and additional affidavits of the Petitioner dated 2.9.2025 and 8.12.2025.

7. Having heard the representatives of the Petitioner and perused the material available on record, we proceed to dispose of the Petition.

TRUING-UP OF ANNUAL FIXED CHARGES FOR THE 2019-24 TARIFF PERIOD

8. The Petitioner has claimed the following transmission charges in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2019-24 tariff period:

(₹ in lakh)					
Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Depreciation	140.95	142.97	143.14	143.14	143.14
Interest on Loan	113.31	100.66	89.65	80.97	71.87
Return on Equity	150.79	153.01	153.19	153.19	153.19
O&M Expenses	14.46	13.67	12.87	13.04	15.08
Interest on Working Capital	191.93	198.85	205.83	213.19	220.42
Total	611.44	609.16	604.68	603.53	603.70

9. The details of the trued-up Interest on Working Capital (IWC) claimed by the Petitioner in respect of the Combined Assets are as follows:

(₹ in lakh)					
Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
O&M Expenses	15.99	16.57	17.15	17.77	18.37
Maintenance Spares	28.79	29.83	30.87	31.98	33.06
Receivables	75.18	75.10	74.55	74.41	74.23
Total Working Capital	119.96	121.50	122.57	124.16	125.66
Rate of Interest (in %)	12.05	11.25	10.50	10.50	12.00
Interest on Working Capital	14.46	13.67	12.87	13.04	15.08

Capital Cost for the 2019-24 Tariff Period

10. The Commission vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019

approved the capital cost of ₹2640.04 lakh for the Combined Assets as on 31.3.2019. The Petitioner, in this Petition, has claimed the same capital cost of ₹2640.04 lakh as on 1.4.2019 for the Combined Assets as approved by the Commission vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019.

11. Accordingly, ₹2640.04 lakh is considered as the opening capital cost as on 1.4.2019 for the purpose of truing-up the transmission tariff for the 2019-24 tariff period.

Additional Capital Expenditure (ACE)

12. The Commission, vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019, approved projected ACE of ₹75.86 lakh under Regulation 25(1)(d) of the 2019 Tariff Regulation for the Combined Assets for the 2019-24 tariff period. In the instant Petition, the Petitioner has claimed the following ACE:

ACE claimed	
2019-20	2020-21
72.23	6.54

13. The Petitioner vide affidavit dated 2.9.2025 has submitted that the ACE incurred during the 2019-24 tariff period is claimed under Regulations 25(1)(d) of the 2019 Tariff Regulations. The primary reason for the variations between the approved ACE and the actual ACE is that, at the time of estimating the projected additional capitalization, the relevant contracts were not closed, and liabilities were not finalized. However, in the instant true-up Petition, the Petitioner has claimed ACE on the basis of actual payments made to the vendors, subsequent to the receipt of final invoices, incorporating necessary amendments, and after due reconciliation in accordance with the contractual provisions.

14. The Petitioner has submitted a detailed break-up of the ACE for the Combined Assets, and it is as follows:

Asset	Additional Capital Expenditure (₹ in lakh)				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Combined Assets	72.23	6.54	-	-	-
Claimed under Regulations	Regulation 25(1)(d) of the 2019 Tariff Regulations.	Regulation 25(1)(d) of the 2019 Tariff Regulations.	-	-	-

15. The Commission, vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019, had directed the Petitioner to submit details of the contracts, scope, original liability and undischarged liability as on 31.3.2019 and the Regulation under which such additional capitalization is claimed at the time of true up of the 2019-24 tariff period.

16. Accordingly, in this Petition, the Petitioner has submitted that ACE claimed beyond the cut-off date, during the 2019-24 tariff period, pertains to undischarged liabilities towards final payment or withheld payment arising due to contractual exigencies for the works executed within the cut-off date and has been claimed as per Regulation 25(1)(d) of the 2019 Tariff Regulations.

17. The Petitioner has submitted the following Liability Flow Statement in respect of the assets forming part of the Combined Assets:

Combined Assets:

(₹ in lakh)

Party Name	Particulars	Undischarged Liability as on 31.03.2019	Discharge of Liability		
			2019-20	2020-21	Total (19-24)
M/s. Toshiba Transmission & Distribution Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Ex-works supply & services contract for substation extension work and other miscellaneous work.	78.77	72.23	6.54	78.77
Total		78.77	72.23	6.54	78.77

18. We have considered the Petitioner's submissions and observe that the E-COD for the Combined Assets was approved as .5.5.2016, and the cut-off date for the Combined Assets was worked out to be 31.3.2019. The ACE claimed by the Petitioner for the Combined Assets after the cut-off date was allowed under Regulation 25(1)(d) of the 2019 Tariff Regulations towards liability payments for works executed prior to the cut-off date.

19. Accordingly, the ACE allowed for the Combined Assets for the 2019-24 tariff period is as follows:

Asset	ACE allowed					(₹ in lakh) Total
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Combined Assets	72.23	6.54	-	-	-	78.77
Claimed under the 2019 Regulations	Regulation 25(1)(d) of the 2019 Tariff Regulations.	Regulation 25(1)(d) of the 2019 Tariff Regulations.	-	-	-	-

20. The capital cost and ACE allowed in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2019-24 period are as follows:

Assets	Admitted Capital cost as on 31.3.2019	Admitted ACE for 2019-24 Tariff Period		Capital Cost as on 31.3.2024
		2019-20	2020-21	
Combined Assets	2640.04	72.23	6.54	2718.81

Debt-Equity Ratio

21. The details of the debt-equity ratio considered and allowed under Regulation 18 of the 2019 Tariff Regulations for computation of tariff in respect of the Combined Assets during the 2019-24 tariff period are as follows:

Funding	Capital Cost as on 1.4.2019		ACE during the 2019-24 tariff period (₹ in lakh)	Capital Cost as on 31.3.2024	
	(₹ in lakh)	(in %)		(₹ in lakh)	(in %)
Debt	1848.04	70.00	55.14	1903.18	70.00
Equity	792.00	30.00	23.63	815.63	30.00
Total	2640.04	100.00	78.77	2718.81	100.00

Depreciation

22. Depreciation has been worked out considering the admitted capital expenditure as on 1.4.2019, and thereafter up to 31.3.2024. The Weighted Average Rate of Depreciation (WAROD) has been worked out for the Combined Assets in accordance with the depreciation rates specified in the 2019 Tariff Regulations. Accordingly, the depreciation allowed in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2019-24 tariff period is as follows:

(₹ in lakh)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
A	Opening Gross Block	2640.04	2712.27	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81
B	Addition during the year 2019-24 due to ACE	72.23	6.54	0.00	0.00	0.00
C	Closing Gross Block (A+B)	2712.27	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81
D	Average Gross Block (A+C)/2	2676.16	2715.54	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81
E	Average Gross Block (90% depreciable assets)	2676.16	2715.54	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81
F	Average Gross Block (100% depreciable assets)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G	Depreciable Value (excluding IT equipment and software) (E*90%)	2408.54	2443.99	2446.93	2446.93	2446.93
H	Depreciable Value of IT equipment and software (F*100%)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I	Total Depreciable Value (G+H)	2408.54	2443.99	2446.93	2446.93	2446.93
J	Weighted Average Rate of Depreciation (WAROD) (in %)	5.27%	5.26%	5.26%	5.26%	5.26%
K	Elapsed useful life at the beginning of the year (Year)	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00
L	Balance useful life at the beginning of the year (Year)	23.00	22.00	21.00	20.00	19.00
M	Depreciation during the year (D*J)	140.96	142.97	143.14	143.14	143.14
N	Cumulative Depreciation at the end of the year	511.89	654.86	798.00	941.15	1084.29
O	Remaining Aggregate Depreciable Value at the end of the year	1896.65	1789.13	1648.93	1505.78	1362.64

23. The details of depreciation allowed vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019 in respect of the Combined Assets, depreciation claimed in the instant Petition, and the trued-up depreciation allowed in respect of the Combined Assets in the instant order are as follows:

(₹ in lakh)					
Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Allowed vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019.	141.05	142.99	142.99	142.99	142.99
Claimed by the Petitioner in the instant Petition.	140.95	142.97	143.14	143.14	143.14
Allowed after truing-up in this order.	140.96	142.97	143.14	143.14	143.14

Interest on Loan (IoL)

24. The Petitioner has claimed the Weighted Average Rate of Interest (WAROI) on loans based on its actual loan portfolio and prevailing interest rate.

25. We have considered the Petitioner's submissions and perused the records.

The IoL is calculated based on the actual interest rates submitted by the Petitioner in accordance with Regulation 32 of the 2019 Tariff Regulations. The trued-up IoL allowed in respect of the Combined Assets is as follows:

(₹ in lakh)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
A	Gross Normative Loan	1848.04	1898.60	1903.18	1903.18	1903.18
B	Cumulative Repayments up to the Previous Year	370.93	511.89	654.86	798.00	941.15
C	Net Loan-Opening (A-B)	1477.11	1386.71	1248.32	1105.18	962.03
D	Addition due to ACE	50.56	4.58	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Repayment during the year	140.96	142.97	143.14	143.14	143.14
F	Net Loan-Closing (C+D-E)	1386.71	1248.32	1105.18	962.03	818.89
G	Average Loan (C+F)/2	1431.91	1317.52	1176.75	1033.60	890.46
H	Weighted Average Rate of Interest on Loan (in %)	7.913%	7.640%	7.618%	7.834%	8.071%
I	Interest on Loan (G*H)	113.31	100.66	89.65	80.97	71.87

26. The details of IoL allowed vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019 for the Combined Assets, IoL claimed in the instant Petition, and trued-up IoL allowed in the instant order in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2019-2024 tariff period are as follows:

(₹ in lakh)					
Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Allowed vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019.	114.32	104.96	94.30	83.77	72.10
Claimed by the Petitioner in the instant Petition.	113.31	100.66	89.65	80.97	71.87

Allowed after truing-up in this order	113.31	100.66	89.65	80.97	71.87
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Return on Equity (RoE)

27. The Petitioner has submitted that its Income Tax assessment has been completed, and the assessment orders have been issued by the Income Tax Department for FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21, and the income has been assessed under MAT [115JB of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (IT Act, 1961)]. The Petitioner has further submitted that the Income Tax Returns (ITRs) have been filed for FYs 2021-22 and 2022-23. Further, Income Tax Returns for the 2023-24 will be filed in due course.

28. The Petitioner has further submitted that it is liable to pay Income Tax at Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) rates (17.472, i.e., 15% Income Tax + 12% Surcharge on Income Tax + 4% Health and Education Cess on Income Tax and Surcharge). Accordingly, the Petitioner has claimed the following effective tax rates for the 2019-24 tariff period:

Year	Claimed effective tax rate (in %)	Grossed-up RoE (in %) [(Base Rate)/(1-t)]
2019-20	17.472	18.782
2020-21	17.472	18.782
2021-22	17.472	18.782
2022-23	17.472	18.782
2023-24	17.472	18.782

29. According to the Petitioner, the basis of the computation of the effective tax percentage is as follows:

Financial Year	Basis considered	Total Tax and Interest paid (₹)	Assessed MAT Income under Sec 115JB (₹)	Effective Tax Percentage (in %)	Grossed up ROE (Base rate/(1-t) (in %)
2019-20	Assessment Order	24526276991	140374753855	17.472	18.782
2020-21	Assessment Order	26089359008	149320965036	17.472	18.782
2021-22	Actual Tax paid	31814640406	182089288030	17.472	18.782
2022-23	Actual Tax paid	30428820993	174157629306	17.472	18.782
2023-24	Actual Tax paid	31321238737	179265331597	17.472	18.782



30. The Petitioner has requested that it be permitted to recover the differential tariff on account of trued-up RoE, based on the effective tax rate calculated on completion of income tax assessment /re-assessment for FYs 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 directly from the beneficiaries on a year-to-year basis, as provided under the applicable regulations.

31. We have considered the Petitioner's submissions and also perused the record. We note that entities covered under the MAT regime are paying income tax at the MAT rates notified for the respective financial year under the Income Tax Act, 1961 (for short, hereinafter referred to as the "IT Act, 1961"), which is levied on the book profit of the entity computed as per Section 115 JB of the IT Act, 1961. Section 115 JB (2) of the IT Act, 1961, defines book profit as the net profit in the Statement of Profit and Loss prepared in accordance with Schedule-III of the Companies Act, 2013, subject to some additions and deductions as mentioned in the IT Act, 1961. Since the Petitioner has been paying the MAT rates for the respective financial years, the notified MAT rates for the respective financial year shall be considered as the effective tax rate for the purpose of grossing up the RoE for the truing up of the 2019-24 tariff period in terms of the provisions of the 2019 Tariff Regulations. Interest imposed on any additional income tax demand as per the Assessment Order of the Income Tax Authorities shall be considered on the actual payment. However, the penalty (for default on the part of the Assessee), if any, imposed shall not be taken into account for the purpose of grossing up the rate of RoE. Any under-recovery or over-recovery of the grossed-up rates on RoE after truing up shall be recovered or refunded to the beneficiaries or the long-term customers, as the case may be, on a year-to-year basis. Therefore, the following effective tax rate based on the notified MAT rates is considered for the purpose of grossing up the rate of RoE for the 2019-2024 tariff period:

Year	Notified MAT rates (in %) (inclusive of surcharge & cess)	Effective tax 't' (in %)	Base rate of RoE (in %)	Grossed-up RoE [(Base Rate)/(1-t)] (in%)
2019-20	17.472	17.472	15.50	18.782
2020-21	17.472	17.472	15.50	18.782
2021-22	17.472	17.472	15.50	18.782
2022-23	17.472	17.472	15.50	18.782
2023-24	17.472	17.472	15.50	18.782

32. Accordingly, the trued-up RoE allowed in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2019-24 tariff period is as follows:

(₹ in lakh)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
A	Opening Equity	792.00	813.67	815.63	815.63	815.63
B	Addition due to ACE	21.67	1.96	0.00	0.00	0.00
C	Closing Equity (A+B)	813.67	815.63	815.63	815.63	815.63
D	Average Equity (A+C)/2	802.84	814.65	815.63	815.63	815.63
E	Return on Equity (Base Rate) (in %)	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50
F	Tax Rate applicable (in %)	17.47	17.47	17.47	17.47	17.47
G	Rate of Return on Equity (in %)	18.78	18.78	18.78	18.78	18.78
H	Return on Equity (D*G)	150.79	153.01	153.19	153.19	153.19

33. The details of RoE allowed vide order 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019, RoE claimed in the instant Petition, and trued-up RoE allowed in the instant order in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2019-2024 tariff period are as follows:

(₹ in lakh)					
Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Allowed vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019.	150.89	153.02	153.02	153.02	153.02
Claimed by the Petitioner in the instant Petition.	150.79	153.01	153.19	153.19	153.19
Allowed after truing-up in this order.	150.79	153.01	153.19	153.19	153.19

Operation and Maintenance Expenses (O&M Expenses)

34. The Commission, vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019, allowed the following O&M Expenses in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2019-24 tariff period:

	(₹ in lakh)				
O&M Expenses	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	191.93	198.85	205.83	213.19	220.42

35. The Petitioner, in the instant Petition, has claimed the following O&M Expenses for the 2019-24 tariff period:

	(₹ in lakh)				
O&M Expenses	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	191.93	198.85	205.83	213.19	220.42

36. We have considered the Petitioner's submissions. It is observed that the O&M Expenses claimed by the Petitioner in the instant true-up Petition are as per Regulation 35(3) of the 2019 Tariff Regulations. The O&M Expenses in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2019-24 tariff period have been worked out as follows:

	(₹ in lakh)				
Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
400 kV Substation					
Kameng/Balipara: BALIPARA-400 kV (HV SIDE) BAY of 400/220/33 kV, 315 MVA, 3-Phase ICT-II(2nd ICT)					
Normative rate of O&M as per Regulations	32.15	33.28	34.45	35.66	36.91
No. of bays	1	1	1	1	1
O&M Expenses	32.15	33.28	34.45	35.66	36.91
220 kV Substation					
Kameng/Balipara: BALIPARA-220 kV (LV SIDE) bay of 400/220/33 kV, 315 MVA, 3- Phase ICT-II(2nd ICT)					
Normative rate of O&M as per Regulations	22.51	23.30	24.12	24.96	25.84
No. of bays	1	1	1	1	1
O&M Expenses	22.51	23.30	24.12	24.96	25.84
400 kV Substation-ICT					
Kameng/Balipara: ICT at BALIPARA					
Normative rate of O&M as per Regulations	0.358	0.371	0.384	0.398	0.411
No. of ICTs	1	1	1	1	1
MVA	315	315	315	315	315
O&M Expense	112.77	116.87	120.96	125.37	129.47
132 kV and below ICT					
Nirjuli: ICT-I at Nirjuli (1 x 50 MVA)					
Nirjuli: ICT-II at Nirjuli (1 x 50 MVA)					
Normative rate of O&M as per Regulations	0.245	0.254	0.263	0.272	0.282
No. of ICTs	2	2	2	2	2



MVA	50	50	50	50	50
O&M Expense	24.50	25.40	26.30	27.20	28.20
Total O&M Expenses allowed	191.93	198.85	205.83	213.19	220.42

37. Accordingly, the details of O&M Expenses allowed vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019, O&M Expenses claimed in the instant Petition, and trued-up O&M Expenses allowed in the instant order in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2019-24 tariff period are as follows:

	(₹ in lakh)				
Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Allowed vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019.	191.93	198.85	205.83	213.19	220.42
Claimed by the Petitioner in the instant Petition.	191.93	198.85	205.83	213.19	220.42
Allowed after truing-up in this order.	191.93	198.85	205.83	213.19	220.42

Interest on Working Capital (IWC)

38. The IWC has been worked out in accordance with Regulation 34 of the 2019 Tariff Regulations. The Rate of Interest (RoI) considered is 12.05% (SBI 1-year MCLR applicable as on 1.4.2019 of 8.55% plus 350 basis points) for FY 2019-20, 11.25% (SBI 1-year MCLR applicable as on 1.4.2020 of 7.75% plus 350 basis points) for FY 2020-21, 10.50% (SBI 1-year MCLR applicable as on 1.4.2021 of 7.00% plus 350 basis points) for FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 and 12.00% (SBI 1 year MCLR applicable as on 1.4.2023 of 8.50% plus 350 basis points) for FY 2023-24.

39. The components of the working capital and interest allowed thereon for the Combined Assets for the 2019-24 tariff period are as follows:

		(₹ in lakh)				
Sl. No.	Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
A	Working Capital for O&M Expenses (O&M Expenses for one month).	15.99	16.57	17.15	17.77	18.37

B	Working Capital for Maintenance Spares (15% of O&M Expenses).	28.79	29.83	30.87	31.98	33.06
C	Working Capital for Receivables (Equivalent to 45 days of Annual Fixed Cost /Annual Transmission Charges).	75.18	75.10	74.55	74.41	74.23
D	Total Working Capital (A+B+C)	119.96	121.50	122.58	124.15	125.66
E	Rate of Interest for Working Capital (in %)	12.05%	11.25%	10.50%	10.50%	12.00%
F	Interest on Working Capital (D*E)	14.46	13.67	12.87	13.04	15.08

40. The details of IWC allowed vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019, IWC claimed in the instant Petition, and trued-up IWC allowed in the instant order in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2019-24 tariff period are as follows:

(₹ in lakh)					
Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Allowed vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019.	14.47	14.72	14.86	15.03	15.14
Claimed by the Petitioner in the instant Petition.	14.46	13.67	12.87	13.04	15.08
Allowed after truing-up in this order.	14.46	13.67	12.87	13.04	15.08

Trued-up Annual Fixed Charges for the 2019-24 Tariff Period

41. Accordingly, the trued-up Annual Fixed Charges (AFC) allowed for the 2019-24 tariff period in respect of the Combined Assets are as follows:

(₹ in lakh)					
Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Depreciation	140.96	142.97	143.14	143.14	143.14
Interest on Loan	113.31	100.66	89.65	80.97	71.87
Return on Equity	150.79	153.01	153.19	153.19	153.19
Interest on Working Capital	14.46	13.67	12.87	13.04	15.08
O&M Expenses	191.93	198.85	205.83	213.19	220.42
Total	611.44	609.16	604.68	603.53	603.70

42. The details of AFC allowed vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019, AFC claimed in the instant Petition, and trued-up AFC allowed in the instant order in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2019-24 tariff period are

as follows:

	(₹ in lakh)				
Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Allowed vide order dated 6.5.2020 in Petition No. 513/TT/2019.	612.66	614.54	611.01	608.00	603.67
Claimed by the Petitioner in the instant Petition.	611.44	609.16	604.68	603.53	603.70
Allowed after truing-up in this order.	611.44	609.16	604.68	603.53	603.70

DETERMINATION OF ANNUAL FIXED CHARGES FOR THE 2024-29 TARIFF PERIOD

43. The Petitioner has claimed the following transmission charges in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2024-29 tariff period:

	(₹ in lakh)				
Particulars	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Depreciation	143.14	143.14	143.14	143.14	143.14
Interest on Loan	60.39	48.78	37.16	25.68	14.18
Return on Equity	153.19	153.19	153.19	153.19	153.19
O&M Expenses	12.16	12.35	12.54	12.75	13.03
Interest on Working Capital	158.93	167.37	175.96	185.11	195.22
Total	527.81	524.83	521.99	519.87	518.76

44. The Petitioner has claimed the following Interest on Working Capital (IWC) in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2024-29 tariff period:

	(₹ in lakh)				
Particulars	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
O&M Expenses	13.24	13.95	14.66	15.43	16.27
Maintenance Spares	23.84	25.11	26.39	27.77	29.28
Receivables	65.07	64.70	64.36	63.92	63.96
Total Working Capital	102.15	103.77	105.40	107.12	109.51
Rate of Interest (in %)	11.90%	11.90%	11.90%	11.90%	11.90%
Interest on Working Capital	12.16	12.35	12.54	12.75	13.03

Capital Cost

45. Regulation 19 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations provides as follows:

“19. Capital Cost: (1) The Capital cost of the generating station or the transmission system, as the case may be, as determined by the Commission after prudence checks in accordance with these regulations shall form the basis for the determination of tariff for existing and new projects.

(2) The Capital Cost of a new project shall include the following:

(a) The expenditure incurred or projected to be incurred up to the date of commercial operation of the project;

- (b) Interest during construction and financing charges, on the loans (i) being equal to 70% of the funds deployed and, in the event actual equity is in excess of 30% on a pari-passu basis, by treating the excess equity over and above 30% of the funds deployed as a normative loan, or (ii) being equal to the actual amount of the loan in the event of actual equity being less than 30% of the funds deployed;
- (c) Any gain or loss on account of foreign exchange risk variation pertaining to the loan amount availed during the construction period;
- (d) Interest during construction and incidental expenditure during construction as computed in accordance with these regulations;
- (e) Capitalised initial spares subject to the ceiling rates in accordance with these regulations;
- (f) Expenditure on account of additional capitalization and de-capitalisation determined in accordance with these regulations;
- (g) Adjustment of revenue due to the sale of infirm power in excess of fuel cost prior to the date of commercial operation as specified under Regulation 6 of these regulations;
- (h) Adjustment of revenue earned by the transmission licensee by using the assets before the date of commercial operation;
- (i) Capital expenditure on account of ash disposal and utilization including handling and transportation facility;
- (j) Capital expenditure incurred towards railway infrastructure and its augmentation for transportation of coal up to the receiving end of the generating station but does not include the transportation cost and any other appurtenant cost paid to the railway;
- (k) Capital expenditure on account of biomass handling equipment and facilities, for co-firing;
- (l) Capital expenditure on account of emission control system necessary to meet the revised emission standards and sewage treatment plant;
- (m) Expenditure on account of the fulfilment of any conditions for obtaining environment clearance for the project;
- (n) Expenditure on account of change in law and force majeure events; and
- (o)
- (p)
- (3) The Capital cost of an existing project shall include the following:
- (a) Capital cost admitted by the Commission prior to 1.4.2024 duly trued up by excluding liability, if any, as on 1.4.2024;
- (b) Additional capitalization and de-capitalization for the respective year of tariff as determined in accordance with these regulations;
- (c) Capital expenditure on account of renovation and modernisation as admitted by this Commission in accordance with these regulations;
- (d) to (h)
- (i) Expenditure on account of change in law and force majeure events;
- (4)
- (5)
- (6) The following shall be excluded from the capital cost of the existing and new projects:
- (a) The assets forming part of the project but not in use, as declared in the tariff petition;
- (b) De-capitalised Assets after the date of commercial operation on account of obsolescence;
- (c) De-capitalised Assets on account of upgradation or shifting from one project to another project:

Provided that in case such an asset is recommended for further utilisation by the Regional Power Committee in consultation with CTU, such asset shall be de-capitalised from the original project only after its redeployment;

Provided further that unless shifting of an asset from one project to another is of a permanent nature, there shall be no de-capitalization of the concerned assets.

(d)

(e) Proportionate cost of land of the existing generation or transmission project, as the case may be, which is being used for generating power from a generating station based on renewable energy as may be permitted by the Commission; and

(f) Any grant received from the Central or State Government or any statutory body or authority for the execution of the project that does not carry any liability of repayment.”

46. The Commission has, in this order, trued up the capital cost of ₹2718.81 lakh as on 31.3.2024 in respect of the Combined Assets. Accordingly, the capital cost of ₹2718.81 lakh has been considered as the opening capital cost as on 1.4.2024 for the purpose of determining the transmission tariff for the 2024-29 tariff period, in accordance with Regulation 19 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations.

Additional Capital Expenditure (ACE)

47. The Petitioner has not claimed ACE in respect of the Combined Asset for the 2024-29 tariff period.

48. Accordingly, the details of capital cost allowed in respect of the Combined Assets, are as follows:

(₹ in lakh)		
Capital cost admitted as on 31.3.2024	Expenditure during the 2024-29 Tariff Period	Actual Capital Cost as on 31.3.2029
2718.81	-	2718.81

Debt-Equity Ratio

49. Regulation 18 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations provides as follows:

“18. Debt-Equity Ratio: (1) For new projects, the debt-equity ratio of 70:30 as on date of commercial operation shall be considered. If the equity actually deployed is more than 30% of the capital cost, equity in excess of 30% shall be treated as normative loan:

Provided that:

- i. where equity actually deployed is less than 30% of the capital cost, actual equity shall be considered for determination of tariff:*
- ii. the equity invested in foreign currency shall be designated in Indian rupees on the date of each investment:*
- iii. any grant obtained for the execution of the project shall not be considered as a part of capital structure for the purpose of debt: equity ratio.*

Explanation- The premium, if any, raised by the generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be, while issuing share capital and investment of internal resources created out of its free reserve for the funding of the project, shall be reckoned as paid up capital for the purpose of computing return on equity, only if such premium amount and internal resources are actually utilized for meeting the capital expenditure of the generating station or the transmission system.

(2) The generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be, shall submit the resolution of the Board of the company or the approval of the competent authority in other cases regarding the infusion of funds from internal resources in support of the utilization made or proposed to be made to meet the capital expenditure of the generating station or the transmission system including communication system, as the case may be.

(3) In the case of the generating station and the transmission system, including the communication system declared under commercial operation prior to 1.4.2024, the debt-equity ratio allowed by the Commission for the determination of tariff for the period ending 31.3.2024 shall be considered:

Provided that in the case of a generating station or a transmission system, including a communication system which has completed its useful life as on 1.4.2024 or is completing its useful life during the 2024-29 tariff period, if the equity actually deployed is more than 30% of the capital cost, equity in excess of 30% shall not be taken into account for tariff computation;

Provided further that in case of projects owned by Damodar Valley Corporation, the debt: equity ratio shall be governed as per sub-clause (ii) of clause (2) of Regulation 96 of these regulations.

(4) In the case of the generating station and the transmission system, including communication system declared under commercial operation prior to 1.4.2024, but where debt: equity ratio has not been determined by the Commission for determination of tariff for the period ending 31.3.2024, the Commission shall approve the debt: equity ratio in accordance with clause (1) of this Regulation.

(5) Any expenditure incurred or projected to be incurred on or after 1.4.2024 as may be admitted by the Commission as additional capital expenditure for determination of tariff, and renovation and modernisation expenditure for life extension shall be serviced in the manner specified in clause (1) of this Regulation.

(6) Any expenditure incurred for the emission control system during the tariff period as may be admitted by the Commission as additional capital expenditure for determination of supplementary tariff, shall be serviced in the manner specified in clause (1) of this Regulation."

50. The debt-equity ratio for the 2024-29 tariff period has been considered in accordance with Regulation 18 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations. Accordingly, the debt-equity ratio allowed for the purpose of computation of tariff for the 2024-29 period in respect of the Combined Assets is as follows:

Funding	Capital Cost as on 1.4.2024		ACE (2024-29)	Capital Cost as on 31.3.2029	
	(₹ in lakh)	(in %)		(₹ in lakh)	(in %)
Debt	1903.18	70.00	-	1903.18	70.00
Equity	815.63	30.00	-	815.63	30.00
Total	2718.81	100.00	-	2718.81	100.00

Depreciation

51. Regulation 33 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations provides as follows:

"33. Depreciation: (1) Depreciation shall be computed from the date of commercial operation of a generating station or unit thereof or a transmission system or element thereof including communication system. In the case of the tariff of all the units of a generating station or all elements of a transmission system including the communication system for which a single tariff needs to be determined, the depreciation shall be computed from the effective date of commercial operation of the generating station or the transmission system taking into consideration the depreciation of individual units:

Provided that the effective date of commercial operation shall be worked out by considering the actual date of commercial operation and installed capacity of all the units of the generating station or capital cost of all elements of the transmission system, for which a single tariff needs to be determined.

(2) The value base for the purpose of depreciation shall be the capital cost of the asset admitted by the Commission. In case of multiple units of a generating station or multiple elements of a transmission system, the weighted average life for the generating station or the transmission system shall be applied. Depreciation shall be chargeable from the first year of commercial operation. In the case of commercial operation of the asset for a part of the year, depreciation shall be charged on a pro rata basis.

(3) The salvage value of the asset shall be considered as 10%, and depreciation shall be allowed up to the maximum of 90% of the capital cost of the asset:

Provided that the salvage value for IT equipment and software shall be considered as NIL and 100% value of the assets shall be considered depreciable;

.....

Provided also that any depreciation disallowed on account of lower availability of the generating station or unit or transmission system, as the case may be, shall not be allowed to be recovered at a later stage during the useful life or the extended life.

(4)

(5) Depreciation for Existing Projects shall be calculated annually based on the Straight-Line Method and at rates specified in Appendix-I to these regulations for the assets of the generating station and transmission system:

Provided that the remaining depreciable value as on 31st March of the year closing after a period of 12 years from the effective date of commercial operation of the generating station or transmission system, as the case may be, shall be spread over the balance useful life of the assets.

.....

(6) Depreciation for New Projects shall be calculated annually based on the Straight-Line Method and at rates specified in Appendix-II to these regulations for the assets of the generating station and transmission system:

Provided that the remaining depreciable value as on 31st March of the year closing after a period of 15 years from the effective date of commercial operation of the generating station or the transmission system, as the case may be, shall be spread over the balance useful life of the assets.

.....

(7) In the case of the existing projects, the balance depreciable value as on 1.4.2024 shall be worked out by deducting the cumulative depreciation as admitted to by the Commission up to 31.3.2024 from the gross depreciable value of the assets.

(8) The generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be, shall submit the details of capital expenditure proposed to be incurred during five years before the completion of useful life along with proper justification and proposed life extension. The Commission, based on prudence check of such submissions, shall approve the depreciation by equally spreading the depreciable value over the balance Operational Life of the generating station or unit thereof or fifteen years, whichever is lower, and in case of the transmission system shall equally spread the depreciable value over the balance useful life of the Asset or 10 years whichever is higher.

(9) In case of de-capitalization of assets in respect of generating station or unit thereof or transmission system or element thereof, the cumulative depreciation shall be adjusted by taking into account the depreciation recovered in tariff by the de-capitalized asset during its useful service”

52. The depreciation has been worked out considering the admitted capital expenditure as on 1.4.2024 and, thereafter, up to 31.3.2029. The Weighted Average Rate of Depreciation (WAROD) has been worked out for the Combined Assets as per the depreciation rates specified under the 2024 Tariff Regulations.

53. The depreciation allowed for the Combined Assets under Regulation 33 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations for the 2024-29 tariff period is as follows:

(₹ in lakh)

	Particulars	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
A	Opening Gross Block	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81
B	Addition during the year 2024-29 due to projected ACE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C	Closing Gross Block (A+B)	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81
D	Average Gross Block (A+C)/2	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81
E	Average Gross Block (90% depreciable assets)	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81	2718.81
F	Average Gross Block (100% depreciable assets)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G	Depreciable Value (excluding IT equipment and software) (E*90%)	2446.93	2446.93	2446.93	2446.93	2446.93
H	Depreciable Value of IT equipment and software (F*100%)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I	Total Depreciable Value (G+H)	2446.93	2446.93	2446.93	2446.93	2446.93
J	Weighted Average Rate of Depreciation (WAROD) (in %)	5.26%	5.26%	5.26%	5.26%	5.26%
K	Elapsed useful life at the beginning of the year (Year)	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00
L	Balance useful life at the beginning of the year (Year)	18.00	17.00	16.00	15.00	14.00
M	Depreciation during the year (D*J)	143.14	143.14	143.14	143.14	143.14
N	Cumulative Depreciation at the end of the year	1227.43	1370.58	1513.72	1656.87	1800.01
O	Remaining Aggregate Depreciable Value at the end of the year	1219.50	1076.35	933.21	790.06	646.92

Interest on Loan (IoL)

54. Regulation 32 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations provides as follows:

“32. Interest on loan capital: (1) The loans arrived at in the manner indicated in Regulation 18 of these regulations shall be considered gross normative loans for the calculation of interest on loans.

(2) The normative loan outstanding as on 1.4.2024 shall be worked out by deducting the cumulative repayment as admitted by the Commission up to 31.3.2024 from the gross normative loan.

(3) The repayment for each of the years of the tariff period 2024-29 shall be deemed to be equal to the depreciation allowed for the corresponding year or period. In case of de-capitalization of assets, the repayment shall be adjusted by taking into account cumulative repayment on a pro rata basis, and the adjustment should not exceed cumulative depreciation recovered up to the date of de-capitalisation of such asset.

(4) Notwithstanding any moratorium period availed of by the generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be, the repayment of the loan shall be considered from the first year of commercial operation of the project and shall be equal to the depreciation allowed for the year or part of the year.

(5) The rate of interest shall be the weighted average rate of interest calculated on the basis of the actual loan portfolio or allocated loan portfolio;

Provided that if there is no actual loan outstanding for a particular year but the normative loan is still outstanding, the last available weighted average rate of interest of the loan portfolio for the project shall be considered;

Provided further that if the generating station or the transmission system, as



the case may be, does not have any actual loan, then the weighted average rate of interest

of the loan portfolio of the generating company or the transmission licensee as a whole shall be considered.

Provided that the rate of interest on the loan for the installation of the emission control system commissioned subsequent to date of commercial operation of the generating station or unit thereof, shall be the weighted average rate of interest of the actual loan portfolio of the emission control system, and in the absence of the actual loan portfolio, the weighted average rate of interest of the generating company as a whole shall be considered, subject to a ceiling of 14%;

Provided further that if the generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be, does not have any actual loan, then the rate of interest for a loan shall be considered as 1-year MCLR of the State Bank of India as applicable as on April 01, of the relevant financial year.

(6) The interest on the loan shall be calculated on the normative average loan of the year by applying the weighted average rate of interest.

(7) The changes to the terms and conditions of the loans shall be reflected from the date of such re-financing."

55. The Petitioner has claimed the Weighted Average Rate of Interest (WAROI) on loans based on its actual loan portfolio and prevailing interest rates as on 1.4.2024. The IoL has been calculated based on the actual interest rates applicable to the loans deployed for each year, in accordance with the 2024 Tariff Regulations. The IoL allowed in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2024-29 tariff period is as follows:

(₹ in lakh)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
A	Gross Normative Loan	1903.18	1903.18	1903.18	1903.18	1903.18
B	Cumulative Repayments up to Previous Year	1084.29	1227.43	1370.58	1513.72	1656.87
C	Net Loan-Opening (A-B)	818.89	675.74	532.60	389.46	246.31
D	Addition due to ACE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Repayment during the year	143.14	143.14	143.14	143.14	143.14
F	Net Loan-Closing (C+D-E)	675.74	532.60	389.46	246.31	103.17
G	Average Loan (C+F)/2	747.32	604.17	461.03	317.88	174.74
H	Weighted Average Rate of Interest on Loan (in %)	8.079	8.072	8.059	8.077	8.112
I	Interest on Loan (G*H)	60.38	48.77	37.15	25.67	14.17

Return on Equity (RoE)

56. Regulations 30 and 31 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations provide as follows:

“30. Return on Equity: (1) Return on equity shall be computed in rupee terms, on the equity base determined in accordance with Regulation 18 of these regulations.

(2) Return on equity for existing project shall be computed at the base rate of 15.50% for thermal generating station, transmission system including communication system and run-of-river hydro generating station and at the base rate of 16.50% for storage type hydro generating stations, pumped storage hydro generating stations and run-of- river generating station with pondage;

(3) Return on equity for new project achieving COD on or after 1.4.2024 shall be computed at the base rate of 15.00% for the transmission system, including the communication system, at the base rate of 15.50% for Thermal generating station and run-of-river hydro generating station and at the base rate of 17.00% for storage type hydro generating stations, pumped storage hydro generating stations and run-of-river generating station with pondage;

Provided that return on equity in respect of additional capitalization beyond the original scope, including additional capitalization on account of the emission control system, Change in Law, and Force Majeure shall be computed at the base rate of one-year marginal cost of lending rate (MCLR) of the State Bank of India plus 350 basis points as on 1st April of the year, subject to a ceiling of 14%;

Provided further that:

i. In case of a new project, the rate of return on equity shall be reduced by 1.00% for such period as may be decided by the Commission if the generating station or transmission system is found to be declared under commercial operation without commissioning of any of the Free Governor Mode Operation (FGMO), data telemetry, communication system up to load dispatch centre or protection system based on the report submitted by the respective RLDC;

.....”

“31. Tax on Return on Equity. (1) The rate of return on equity as allowed by the Commission under Regulation 30 of these regulations shall be grossed up with the effective tax rate of the respective financial year. The effective tax rate shall be calculated at the beginning of every financial year based on the estimated profit and tax to be paid estimated in line with the provisions of the relevant Finance Act applicable for that financial year to the concerned generating company or the transmission licensee by excluding the income of non-generation or non-transmission business, as the case may be, and the corresponding tax thereon.

Provided that in case a generating company or transmission licensee is paying Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) under Section 115JB of the Income Tax Act, 1961, the effective tax rate shall be the MAT rate, including surcharge and cess;

Provided further that in case a generating company or transmission licensee has opted for Section 115BAA, the effective tax rate shall be tax rate including surcharge and cess as specified under Section 115BAA of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(2) The rate of return on equity shall be rounded off to three decimal places and shall be computed as per the formula given below:

Rate of pre-tax return on equity = Base rate / (1-t)

(3) The generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be, shall true up the effective tax rate for every financial year based on actual tax paid together with any additional tax demand, including interest thereon, duly adjusted for any refund of tax including interest received from the income tax authorities pertaining to the tariff period 2024-29 on actual gross income of any financial year. Further, any penalty arising on account of delay in deposit or short deposit of tax amount shall not be considered while computing the actual tax paid for the generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be.

Provided that in case a generating company or transmission licensee is paying Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) under Section 115JB, the generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be, shall true up the grossed-up rate of return on equity at the end of every financial year with the applicable MAT rate including surcharge and cess.

Provided that in case a generating company or transmission licensee is paying tax under Section 115BAA, the generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be, shall true up the grossed-up rate of return on equity at the end of every financial year with the tax rate including surcharge and cess as specified under Section 115BAA.

Provided that any under-recovery or over recovery of grossed up rate on return on equity after truing up, shall be recovered or refunded to beneficiaries or the long-term customers, as the case may be, on a year-to-year basis.”

57. The Petitioner has submitted that MAT rate is applicable to it. The Petitioner has claimed Return on Equity (RoE) at a base rate of 15.500% and an effective tax rate of 17.472% for the 2024-29 tariff period. The same has been considered, subject to truing-up, in accordance with the provisions of the 2024 Tariff Regulations.

58. We have considered the Petitioner's submissions and have perused the record. The RoE allowed in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2024-29 tariff period, in accordance with Regulation 31 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations, is as follows:

(₹ in lakh)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
A	Opening Equity	815.63	815.63	815.63	815.63	815.63
B	Addition due to ACE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C	Closing Equity (A+B)	815.63	815.63	815.63	815.63	815.63
D	Average Equity (A+C)/2	815.63	815.63	815.63	815.63	815.63
E	Return on Equity (Base Rate) (in %)	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50
F	Tax Rate applicable (in %)	17.47	17.47	17.47	17.47	17.47
G	Rate of Return on Equity (in %)	18.78	18.78	18.78	18.78	18.78
H	Return on Equity (D*G)	153.19	153.19	153.19	153.19	153.19

Operation and Maintenance Expenses (O&M Expenses)

59. The O&M Expenses claimed by the Petitioner in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2024-29 tariff period are as follows:

(₹ in lakh)					
Particulars	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
O&M Expenses	158.93	167.37	175.96	185.11	195.22

60. Regulation 36(3) of the 2024 Tariff Regulations provides as follows:

“36. Operation and Maintenance Expenses:

.....

(3) Transmission system: (a) The following normative operation and maintenance expenses shall be admissible for the transmission system:

Particulars	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Norms for sub-station Bays (Rs Lakh per bay)					
765 kV	41.34	43.51	45.79	48.20	50.73
400 kV	29.53	31.08	32.71	34.43	36.23
220 kV	20.67	21.75	22.90	24.10	25.36
132 kV and below	15.78	16.61	17.48	18.40	19.35
Norms for Transformers/Reactors (Rs Lakh per MVA or MVAR)					
O&M expenditure per MVA or per MVAR (Rs Lakh per MVA or per MVAR)	0.262	0.276	0.290	0.305	0.322
Norms for AC and HVDC lines (Rs Lakh per km)					
Single Circuit (Bundled Conductor with six or more sub-conductors)	0.861	0.906	0.953	1.003	1.056
Single Circuit (Bundled conductor with four or more sub-conductors)	0.738	0.776	0.817	0.860	0.905
Single Circuit (Twin & Triple Conductor)	0.492	0.518	0.545	0.573	0.603
Single Circuit (Single Conductor)	0.246	0.259	0.272	0.287	0.302
Double Circuit (Bundled conductor with four or more sub-conductors)	1.291	1.359	1.430	1.506	1.585
Double Circuit (Twin & Triple Conductor)	0.861	0.906	0.953	1.003	1.056
Double Circuit (Single Conductor)	0.369	0.388	0.409	0.430	0.453
Multi Circuit (Bundled Conductor with four or more sub-conductor)	2.266	2.385	2.510	2.642	2.781
Multi Circuit (Twin & Triple Conductor)	1.509	1.588	1.671	1.759	1.851
Norms for HVDC stations					
HVDC Back-to-Back stations (Rs Lakh per MW)	2.07	2.18	2.30	2.42	2.55
Gazuwaka BTB (Rs Lakh/MW)	1.83	1.92	2.03	2.13	2.24
HVDC bipole scheme (Rs Lakh/MW)	1.04	1.10	1.16	1.22	1.28

Provided that the O&M expenses for the GIS bays shall be allowed as worked out by multiplying 0.70 of the O&M expenses of the normative O&M expenses for bays:

Provided that the O&M expense norms of Double Circuit quad AC line shall be applicable to for HVDC bi-pole line:

Provided that the O&M expenses of ± 500 kV Mundra-Mohindergarh HVDC bipole scheme (2500 MW) shall be allowed as worked out by multiplying 0.80 of the normative O&M expenses for HVDC bipole scheme:

Provided further that the O&M expenses for Transmission Licensees whose transmission assets are located solely in NE Region (including Sikkim), States of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, district of Darjeeling of West Bengal shall be worked out by multiplying 1.50 to the normative O&M expenses prescribed above.

(b) The total allowable operation and maintenance expenses for the transmission system shall be calculated by multiplying the number of substation bays, transformer capacity of the transformer/reactor/Static Var Compensator/Static Synchronous Compensator (in MVA/MVAr) and km of line length with the applicable norms for the operation and maintenance expenses per bay, per MVA/MVAr and per km respectively ”

61. We have considered the Petitioner's submissions. The O&M Expenses for the 2024-29 tariff period have been worked out in accordance with the norms specified under the 2024 Tariff Regulations. The O&M Expenses approved in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2024-29 tariff period, as per Regulation 36 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations, are as under:

(₹ in lakh)					
Particulars	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
400 kV Substation					
Kameng/Balipara: BALIPARA 400 kV(HV side) bay of 400/220/33 kV, 315 MVA, 3-Phase ICT-II(2nd ICT)					
Normative rate of O&M Expenses as per Regulations	29.53	31.08	32.71	34.43	36.23
No. of units	1	1	1	1	1
O&M Expenses	29.53	31.08	32.71	34.43	36.23
220 kV Substation					
Kameng/Balipara: BALIPARA 220 kV(LV side) bay of 400/220/33 kV, 315 MVA, 3-Phase ICT-II(2nd ICT)					
Normative rate of O&M as per Regulations	20.67	21.75	22.90	24.10	25.36
No. of units	1	1	1	1	1
O&M Expenses	20.67	21.75	22.90	24.10	25.36
Transformer					
Nirjuli: ICT-I at Nirjuli (1 x 50 MVA)					
Nirjuli: ICT-II at Nirjuli (1 x 50 MVA)					
Kameng/Balipara: ICT at Balipara (1 x 315 MVA)					
Normative rate of O&M as per Regulations	0.262	0.276	0.290	0.305	0.322
MVA	415	415	415	415	415
O&M Expenses	108.73	114.54	120.35	126.58	133.63
Total O&M Expenses	158.93	167.37	175.96	185.11	195.22

Interest on Working Capital (IWC)

62. Regulations 34(1)(d), 34(3) and 34(4) of the 2024 Tariff Regulations provide as follows:

“34. Interest on Working Capital: (1) The working capital shall cover:

.....

(d) For Hydro generating station (including Pumped Storage Hydro generating station) and Transmission System:

(i) Receivables equivalent to 45 days of annual fixed cost;

(ii) Maintenance spares @ 15% of operation and maintenance expenses including security expenses; and

(iii) Operation and maintenance expenses, including security expenses for one month.

.....

(3) Rate of interest on working capital shall be on a normative basis and shall be considered at the Reference Rate of Interest as on 1.4.2024 or as on 1st April of the year during the tariff period 2024- 29 in which the generating station or a unit thereof or the transmission system including communication system or element thereof, as the case may be, is declared under commercial operation, whichever is later:

Provided that in case of truing-up, the rate of interest on working capital shall be considered at Reference Rate of Interest as on 1st April of each of the financial year during the tariff period 2024-29.

(4) Interest on working capital shall be payable on a normative basis, notwithstanding that the generating company or the transmission licensee has not taken a loan for working capital from any outside agency.”

63. The Petitioner has considered the rate of IWC as 11.90% as on 1.4.2024. IWC has been worked out in accordance with Regulation 34 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations. The Rate of Interest (RoI) considered is 11.90% (SBI 1-year MCLR applicable as on 1.4.2024 of 8.65% plus 325 basis points) for FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29.

64. The components of the working capital and interest allowed thereon under Regulation 34 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations for the 2024-29 tariff period in respect of the Combined Assets are as under:

(₹ in lakh)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
A	Working Capital for O&M Expenses (O&M Expenses for one month)	13.24	13.95	14.66	15.43	16.27
B	Working Capital for Maintenance Spares (15% of O&M Expenses)	23.84	25.11	26.39	27.77	29.28
C	Working Capital for Receivables (Equivalent to 45 days of Annual Fixed Cost /Annual Transmission Charges)	65.07	64.70	64.36	63.92	63.96
D	Total Working Capital (A+B+C)	102.16	103.76	105.41	107.11	109.51
E	Rate of Interest for Working Capital (in %)	11.90%	11.90%	11.90%	11.90%	11.90%
F	Interest on Working Capital (D*E)	12.16	12.35	12.54	12.75	13.03

Annual Fixed Charges for the 2024-29 Tariff Period

65. The transmission charges allowed in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2024-29 tariff period are as follows:

(₹ in lakh)					
Particulars	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Depreciation	143.14	143.14	143.14	143.14	143.14
Interest on Loan	60.38	48.77	37.15	25.67	14.17
Return on Equity	153.19	153.19	153.19	153.19	153.19
Interest on Working Capital	12.16	12.35	12.54	12.75	13.03
O&M Expenses	158.93	167.37	175.96	185.11	195.22
Total	527.81	524.83	521.99	519.87	518.76

Filing Fee and Publication Expenses

66. The Petitioner has sought reimbursement of the fee it paid for filing the Petition and the expenses incurred in publishing the notices. In this regard, the Petitioner has submitted that it is entitled to reimbursement of these expenses directly from the beneficiaries or the long-term customers, as the case may be, in accordance with Regulation 94(1) of the 2024 Tariff Regulations.

67. We have considered the Petitioner's submissions. The Petitioner is entitled to reimbursement of the filing fees and publication expenses directly from the beneficiaries or long-term customers, as the case may be, under Regulation 94(1)

of the 2024 Tariff Regulations.

Fees and Charges of Central Transmission Utility of India Limited (CTUIL)

68. The Petitioner has submitted that, as per Regulation 99 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations, the fees and charges of the CTUIL may be allowed separately through a separate regulation. The Petitioner has further submitted that in the absence of such regulation, the expenses of CTUIL will be borne by it and recovered as additional O&M Expenses through a separate Petition at the end of the tariff period.

69. It is apt here to refer to Regulation 99 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations, which provides as under:

“99. Special Provisions relating to Central Transmission Utility of India Ltd. (CTUIL): The fees and charges of CTUIL shall be allowed separately by the Commission through a separate regulation:

Provided that until such regulation is issued by the Commission, the expenses of CTUIL shall be borne by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) which shall be recovered by PGCIL as additional O&M expenses through a separate petition.”

70. We have considered the Petitioner’s submissions and perused Regulation 99 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations. In view of the explicit provision made under Regulation 99 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations, we permit the Petitioner, i.e., PGCIL, to bear the fees and charges of CTUIL and recover the same as additional O&M Expenses through a separate Petition until such a regulation is notified by the Commission.

License Fee and RLDC Fees and Charges

71. The Petitioner has claimed reimbursement of the license fee, RLDC fees and charges. The Petitioner is allowed to reimbursement of the license fee in accordance with Regulation 94(4) of the 2024 Tariff Regulations for the 2024-29 tariff period. The Petitioner is also permitted to recover the RLDC fee and charges from the beneficiaries in terms of Regulation 94(3) of the 2024 Tariff Regulations for the 2024-29 tariff period.

Goods and Services Tax

72. The Petitioner has submitted that the transmission charges claimed herein are exclusive of GST, and in case GST is levied in the future, the same shall be additionally paid by the Respondents, and the Petitioner shall be allowed to charge and bill it separately. The Petitioner further prays that, in the event that any additional taxes are paid by the Petitioner on account of the demand from the Government/ Statutory Authorities, the recovery of the same may be allowed from the beneficiaries.

73. We have considered the Petitioner's submissions. Since GST is not currently levied on transmission services, we find the Petitioner's prayer on this count premature.

Security Expenses, Insurance and Capital Spares

74. The Petitioner has submitted that, as per Regulation 36(3)(d) of the 2024 Tariff Regulations, security expenses and capital spares costing more than ₹10 lakh, for the transmission system, shall be allowed separately after a prudence check.

75. As regards the security expenses of the transmission assets, the Petitioner has submitted that it will file a separate Petition for truing up of security expenses from 1.4.2019 to 31.3.2024 under Regulation 35(3)(c) of the 2019 Tariff Regulations, and recovery of security expenses from 1.4.2024 to 31.3.2029 under Regulation 36(3)(d) of the 2024 Tariff Regulations. No security expenses for the Combined Assets have been claimed in the instant Petition.

76. The Petitioner has also submitted that it has not claimed insurance expenses in the instant Petition and has submitted that it will file a separate Petition for claiming the overall insurance expenses and the consequential IWC on the same, considering the actual insurance expenses incurred by it for FY 2023-24 after escalating the same at 5.25% per annum to arrive at the estimated insurance

expense for FYs 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29.

77. The Petitioner has not claimed capital spares for the Combined Assets in the instant Petition for the 2024-29 tariff period. According to the Petitioner, it will file a separate Petition for the capital spares consumed and consequential IWC thereon on actuals basis for the 2024-29 tariff period as per the 2024 Tariff Regulations. The Petitioner has submitted that it has already filed Petition No. 45/MP/2024, claiming therein capital spares for the 2019-24 tariff period as per the 2019 Tariff Regulations.

78. We have considered the Petitioner's submissions and have perused the record. We deem it proper here to refer to Regulation 36(3)(d) of the 2024 Tariff Regulations, which provides as follows:

"36(3)

(d) The Security Expenses, Capital Spares individually costing more than Rs. 10 lakh and Insurance expenses arrived through competitive bidding for the transmission system and associated communication system shall be allowed separately after prudence check:

Provided that in case of self-insurance, the premium shall not exceed 0.12% of the GFA of the assets insured;

Provided that the transmission licensee shall submit the along with estimated security expenses based on assessment of the security requirement, capital spares and insurance expenses, which shall be trued up based on details of the year-wise actuals along with appropriate justification for incurring the same and along with confirmation that the same is not claimed as a part of additional capitalisation or consumption of stores and spares and renovation and modernization."

79. On perusal of Regulation 36(3)(d) of the 2024 Tariff Regulations and considering the Petitioner's submissions, the Petitioner is allowed to file a single consolidated Petition comprising of security expenses, capital spares individually costing more than ₹10 lakh and insurance expenses on an estimated basis in terms of the 2024 Tariff Regulations for the 2024-29 tariff period.

Sharing of Transmission Charges

80. The Petitioner has submitted that the truing-up of the tariff for the 2019-24 tariff period shall be recovered on a monthly basis in accordance with Regulation 57 of

the 2019 Tariff Regulations, and shall be shared by the beneficiaries and long-term transmission customers. Furthermore, the tariff for the 2024-29 tariff period shall be recovered on a monthly basis in accordance with Regulation 78 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations, and shall be shared by the beneficiaries and long-term transmission customers in accordance with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of Inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses) Regulations, 2020 ("2020 Sharing Regulations") as amended from time to time.

81. We have considered the Petitioner's submissions. The billing, collection and disbursement of the transmission charges in respect of the Combined Assets shall be recovered in terms of the provisions of the 2020 Sharing Regulations, as provided under Regulation 57 of the 2019 Tariff Regulations for the 2019-24 tariff period, and Regulation 78 of the 2024 Tariff Regulations for the 2024-29 tariff period.

82. To summarise:

a) The trued-up Annual Fixed Charges (AFC) allowed in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2019-24 tariff period are as follows:

(₹ in lakh)					
Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
AFC Claimed	611.44	609.16	604.68	603.53	603.70
AFC Allowed	611.44	609.16	604.68	603.53	603.70

b) The AFC allowed in respect of the Combined Assets for the 2024-29 tariff period are as follows:

(₹ in lakh)					
Particulars	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
AFC Claimed	527.81	524.83	521.99	519.87	518.76
AFC Allowed	527.81	524.83	521.99	519.87	518.76

83. This order disposes of Petition No. 100/TT/2025 in terms of the above discussions and findings.

sd/-
(Harish Duadani)
Member

sd/-
(Ramesh Babu V.)
Member