

1. Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1. About Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the State of Goa and UT's (JERC)

In exercise of powers conferred by the Electricity Act 2003, the Central Government constituted the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for all the Union Territories except Delhi to be known as “Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the Union Territories” vide notification no. 23/52/2003-R&R dated 2nd May 2005. Later with the joining of the State of Goa, the Commission came to be known as “Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the State of Goa and Union Territories” (hereinafter referred to as “JERC” or “the Commission”) vide notification no. 23/52/2003-R&R (Vol. II) dated 30th May 2008.

JERC is a statutory body responsible for regulation of the Power Sector in the State of Goa and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Puducherry, consisting of generation, transmission, distribution, trading and use of electricity etc. Its primary objective includes taking measures conducive to the development of the electricity industry, promoting competition therein, protecting the interests of consumers and ensuring supply of electricity to all areas.

1.2. About Goa

Goa is a state on the southwestern coast of India within the region known as the Konkan, and geographically separated from the Deccan highlands by the Western Ghats. It is surrounded by the Indian states of Maharashtra to the north and Karnataka to the east and south, with the Arabian Sea forming its western coast. It is India's smallest state by area and the fourth-smallest by population. The state is divided into two districts: North Goa and South Goa. North Goa is divided into three subdivisions – Panaji, Mapusa, and Bicholim and further into five talukas (subdistricts). South Goa is divided into five subdivisions – Ponda, Mormugao-Vasco, Margao, Quepem, and Dharbandora and further into seven talukas (subdistricts).

Goa has the highest GDP per capita among all Indian states, two and a half times that of the country. The state of Goa is famous for its excellent beaches, churches, and temples. Tourism is Goa's primary industry, it gets 12% of foreign tourist arrivals in India. The state is also rich in minerals and ores, and mining forms the second largest industry. Iron, bauxite, manganese, clays, limestone, and silica are mined extensively in Goa.



Goa is often described as a fusion between Eastern and Western culture with Portuguese culture having a dominant position in the state in its architectural, cultural or social settings.

1.3. About Electricity Department, Government of Goa (EDG)

The Electricity Department, Government of Goa (hereinafter referred to as “ED-Goa” or “EDG” or ‘Petitioner’) is a deemed Distribution Licensee within the meaning of Section 2 (17) of Electricity Act 2003 and pursuant to the Section 14 of the Electricity Act. Further, Section 42 and 43 of the Electricity Act 2003 prescribes the following duties of the deemed Distribution Licensee:

- To develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical distribution system;
- To supply electricity on an application by any person, in accordance with the provisions specified in the Electricity Act 2003;
- To provide non-discriminatory open access to the consumers;
- To establish a forum for redressal of grievances of the consumers.

The primary objective of EDG is to undertake the transmission, distribution and retail supply of electricity in its license area and for this purpose plan, construct, and manage the power system network in all its aspects. EDG is further responsible for carrying out the business of purchasing and selling of electricity along with activities such as billing and collection in the area.

1.4. Multi Year Tariff Regulations, 2021

The Commission notified the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the State of Goa and Union Territories (Generation, Transmission and Distribution Multi Year Tariff) Regulations, 2021 (hereinafter referred to as JERC MYT Regulations, 2021) on 22nd March 2021. These Regulations are applicable in the 3rd MYT Control Period comprising of three financial years from FY 2022- 23 to FY 2024-25. These Regulations are applicable to all the generation companies, transmission and distribution licensees in the State of Goa and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Puducherry.

1.5. Filing and Admission of the Present Petition

The present Petition was admitted on 26th December 2022 and marked as Petition No. 95 of 2022. The Commission and the Petitioner subsequently uploaded the Petition on their respective websites.

1.6. Interaction with the Petitioner

A preliminary scrutiny/analysis of the Petition was conducted, and certain deficiencies were observed. Accordingly, discrepancy notes were issued to the Petitioner. Further, additional information/clarifications were solicited from the Petitioner as and when required. The Commission and the Petitioner also discussed various concerns of the Petitioner and key data gaps, which included retail sales, revenue from retail tariff, capitalization, tariff proposal etc. The Petitioner submitted its response to the issues through various letters/emails.

The Commission conducted the Technical Validation Session (TVS) with the Petitioner at the Commission's office in Gurugram, during which the discrepancies in the Petition were conveyed and additional information required by the Commission was sought. Subsequently, the Petitioner submitted replies to the issues raised in this session and provided documentary evidence to substantiate its claims regarding various submissions. The following table provides the list of interactions with the Petitioner along with the dates:

Table 4: Timelines of the interaction with the Petitioner

S. No	Subject	Date
1	Issue of First Deficiency Note	2 nd February 2023
2	Issue of Second Deficiency Note	14 th February 2023
3	Public Hearing	15 th February 2023
4	Reply received from Petitioner in respect of First Deficiency Note	21 st February 2023
5	Technical Validation Session	3 rd March 2023
6	Replies received from Petitioner in respect of Second Deficiency Note	6 th March 2023
7	Issue of TVS Queries	6 th March 2023
8	Replies received from Petitioner in respect of Second Deficiency Note & TVS	10 th March 2023 & 13 th March 2023

1.7. Notice for Public Hearing

Public Notices were published by the Commission in the leading newspapers as tabled below, giving due intimation to the stakeholders, consumers and the public at large about the Public Hearing to be conducted by the Commission. These notices were also uploaded on the Commission's website

Table 5: Details of Public Notices published by the Commission

Sl. No.	Date	Name of Newspaper	Language	Place of Circulation
1	7 th February 2023 & 13 th February 2023	Gomantak	Marathi	Goa
2		The Times of India	English	Goa
3		The Navhind times	English	Goa
4		oHeraldo	English	Goa

The Public Notice was published by the Petitioner in the following newspapers for inviting objections/ suggestions from the stakeholders on the Tariff Petition:

Table 6: Details of Public Notices published by the Petitioner

S. No.	Date	Name of Newspaper	Language	Place of Circulation
1.	13 th January 2023	Herald	English	Goa
2.		The Times of India	English	Goa
3.		Gomantak	Marathi	Goa
4.		Bhaangar Bhuin	Konkani	Goa

1.8. Public Hearing

The Public Hearing was held on 15th February 2023 to discuss the issues, if any, related to the Petition filed by the Petitioner. The issues and concerns raised by the stakeholders in writing and as voiced by them during the Public Hearing have been examined by the Commission. The names of the stakeholders who attended the Public Hearing are provided in Annexure-I. The major issues discussed, the responses of the Petitioner thereon and the views of the Commission have been summarized in Chapter 2 of this Order.