

**JOINT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
(FOR THE STATE OF GOA AND UNION TERRITORIES)
GURUGRAM**

Suo-Moto Petition No.: 148/2025

Date of Order: 08.08.2025

In the matter of:

The removal of the difficulties arises to implementation of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. In the exercise of power conferred under Regulation 20 of the JERC (Solar PV Grid Interactive System based on Net Metering) Regulations, 2019 and amendment thereof and in order to grant necessary relaxation in certain provisions of the said regulations to promote installation of rooftop solar.

In the matter of:

1. Electricity Department Andaman & Nicobar Island
2. DNHDD, Power Distribution Corporation Limited, DNHDD
3. Electricity Department, Government of Goa
4. Lakshadweep Electricity Department, Lakshadweep
5. Electricity Department, Government of Puducherry
6. Chandigarh Power Distribution Limited, Chandigarh

.....**Respondents**

Order

1. The Government of India has launched the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana on 13th February 2024, aimed at installing rooftop solar plants in one crore households, with a total financial outlay of Rs. 75,021 crores. This scheme was granted vide order No. 318/17/2024- Grid Connected Rooftop, dated 16.03.2024 of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.
2. Subsequently, the MNRE, Government of India issued the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana for the component “Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to Residential Consumers” dated 07.06.2024. As per the guidelines, the scheme has an outlay of incentives for Discoms of **Rs 4,950 crore** and is to be implemented till FY 2026-27. The Financial Outlay for the scheme includes the following components: -

S. No.	Scheme Component	Outlay
1	CFA to Residential Consumers	Rs. 65,700 crores
2	Incentives for Discoms	Rs. 4,950 crores
3	Model Solar Villages in each district	Rs. 800 crores
4	Incentives for Local Bodies	Rs. 1,000 crores
5	Payment Security Mechanism	Rs. 100 crores
6	Innovative Projects	Rs. 500 crores
7	Capacity Building (1% of CFA)	Rs. 657 crores
8	Awareness & Outreach (1% of CFA)	Rs. 657 crores
9	Service Charge (1% of CFA)	Rs. 657 crores
Total		Rs. 75,021 crores

The Aim and Objectives of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana are following:

- a. To achieve 1 crore rooftop solar system (RTS) installation in residential sector.
- b. To help provide free/low-cost electricity to 1 crore households up to 300 units of electricity per month by installation of rooftop solar.
- c. To produce renewable electricity of 1,000 billion units through the capacity installed under the scheme, which will result in reduction of 720 million ton of CO₂eq emission during the 25 years of lifetime for rooftop solar projects.
- d. To develop the required enabling ecosystem for rooftop solar projects, including regulatory support, manufacturing facilities, supply chain, vendor network, operation & maintenance facilities, etc., in the country.
- e. To boost local economy and employment generation along with enhanced energy security.

- f. To aid in achievement of India's commitment for green climate through its NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) at UNFCCC by installation of 30 GW of solar capacity through rooftop solar by 2026-27.
3. The Guidelines for PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (Incentives to DISCOMs) dated 18.07.2024 mentions about the utilization of incentive as the Discoms shall create dedicated Roof Top Solar (RTS) teams at Discom HQ, Circle, till division level, by provisioning for hiring of contractual manpower within the scheme, or to include RTS related services in the duties of outsourcing companies hired by Discoms. The RTS division shall be responsible for registration of vendors on the National Portal, upgradation in ERP system/components and integration with national portal and national dashboard, providing time bound services to RTS consumers, inspection and online monitoring of RTS plants, online database management of commissioned capacity, consumer awareness and publicity, ensuring availability of net-meters, providing grid connectivity, capacity building of its officers/staff, etc.
4. Subsequently, the D.O. letter No. 318/107/2024-GCRT dated 24.03.2025 has been received from the MNRE. It requested for waiver of application fee, meter testing charges, other charges and signing of Net Metering Agreement that are creating hurdle in adoption of PMSG: MBY scheme by the small residential consumers. This will not only facilitate in achieving the scheme target but also the DRE RPO and overall climate goals of the Country through participation of citizen in contributing through adoption of clean energy. These waivers will also help the Ministry to release the Discom incentives. To support the Discoms in this initiative, PMSG: MBY has an allocation of Rs. 4,950 crores as incentives which would offset any loss of cash flow of Discom that may accrue on account of these fee/charges. The MNRE has already disbursed an amount of around Rs. 2,100 crores as incentive to various Discoms.
5. The Electricity Department Goa vide letter No. 101/1/Solar/PMSGBY/CEE/Tech/2024-25/83 dated 17.03.2025 has requested for waiver of all fees and charges associated with PM Surya Ghar Muft: Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) of Roof Top Solar (RTS) connections and remove the requirement of the Power Purchase Agreement or Net Metering Agreement for RTS connections under PMSGMBY. The RTS target for Goa under PMSG: MBY is 21,200 connections from FY 2024-25 upto FY 2026-27. The department charges an application fee of Rs. 500/- per application for RTS connection, as per the Regulation.

The RTS target for Goa under PMSG: MBY is 21,200 connections from FY 2024-25 upto FY 2026-27. The MNRE has calculated an incentive amount for the Electricity Department, Goa for FY 2023-24 amounting to Rs. 1.99 Crores. The incentive amount calculated for only one year i.e. 2023-24 is much higher than the amount to be waived off during the entire period of PMSG: MBY implementation (3 Years).

6. The Commission issued notices for suo-moto proceedings dated 28.05.2025 to all the utilities within its jurisdiction (Respondent No. 1 to 6) and directed to submit their written submission on aforesaid matter. The submission of the Respondents and the Commission's view are as follows:

a) Respondent No. 2 (DNHDDPDCL) submission dated 02.07.2025:

- i. The proposal of relaxation being provided vide the present petition be restricted only to net metering consumer category i.e no other consumer category and no gross metering prosumers should be eligible for similar facilities.
- ii. Regarding the proposal for waiver of cost of the meter, charges for testing, installation & maintenance of metering equipment / system, and registration fee for connectivity shall necessitate the distribution licensee to incur additional capital expenditure / R&M expenditure. Same needs to be considered in tariff accordingly.
- iii. Additionally, the Commission is requested to kindly review the provision of regulation 11.3 of the Net Metering Regulations, 2019 and consider specifying surplus injection compensation rate which shall be applicable for the surplus power generated from grid connected solar PV projects commissioned in the financial year, and such compensation rate shall remain fixed for the entire term of the net metering arrangement.

Commission' view

The Commission appreciates the concern of DNHDDPDCL and clarifies that the instant proposal with respect to waiver of meter cost, installation and testing charges is restricted only to the domestic prosumers under PMSGMBY which is not necessarily net-metered. The proposal of DNHDDPDCL with respect to review of the regulation 11.3 of the Net-Metering Regulations 2019 is beyond the scope of the instant proposal presently as such point has not been made public for suggestions/objections of the stakeholders. In view of the same, the Commission does not agree with the instant suggestion /objection.

b) Respondent No. 3 (ED Goa) submission dated 02.07.2025:

- i. The Electricity Department Goa has no objection and fully agrees with the proceedings initiated to remove difficulties arising in implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana by waiving of the charges as listed herein above.
- ii. The Electricity Department Goa additionally requests to remove the requirement of Net Metering Connection Agreement for rooftop solar installation under PMSGMBY by the domestic consumers (except for Virtual Net-Metering) as specified in Annexure 1 at (h) under Regulation 16.2 of the JERC (Solar PV Grid Interactive System based on Net Metering) Regulations, 2019.

Commission's view

The Commission finds ED Goa in agreement with the proposal of waiver of meter cost, testing, installation & maintenance charges and registration fee for domestic prosumers under PMSGMBY. However, additionally ED Goa has proposed to remove the requirement of Net-

metering Connection Agreement for the aforesaid domestic prosumers. The Commission appreciates the concern of the ED Goa but does not agree with such proposal as the 'Agreement' forms the legal documentation and condition for commercial settlement of net-metered injection/drawl and consequently would play a vital role during any disputes between the DISCOMs and the prosumers.

c) Respondent No. 5 (Electricity Department Puducherry) submission dated 01.07.2025:

- i. As of now the Electricity Department, Puducherry is not stocking Solar Bi-directional meters. The Department will be implementing smart meters project and deployment of smart meters in the existing / new service connections will be commenced shortly. Thus the availability of smart meter (Bi-directional) to the solar consumers at no cost will be ensured.
- ii. No testing charge is levied for the initial testing of Bi directional meters under PMSGMBY scheme.
- iii. The requirement of the registration fee for rooftop solar installations for the domestic consumers under the provision of the JERC (Solar PV Grid Interactive System based on Net Metering) Regulations, 2019 may be waived off.

Commission's view

The Commission finds PED in agreement with proposal.

d) Respondent No. 6 (CPDL) submission dated 27.06.2025:

- i. The CPDL is agreed with the intent of the Commission for effective implementation of the PMSG: MBY. It is pertinent to highlight that the above fees/charges, which would otherwise have been recovered from respective domestic consumers, will now have to be borne by CPDL, recently taken over the distribution business in the Union Territory of Chandigarh with the effective date being 01.02.2025, is still stabilizing its operation in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Commission's view

The Commission appreciates the concern of CPDL. However, the Commission clarifies that the said waivers will not be recovered directly from the domestic prosumers of PMSGMBY but it will be recognized in the ARR and will be passed on to the consumers as a part of tariff.


7. The Respondents have requested that waiver of cost of the meter, charges for testing, installation & maintenance of metering equipment / system, and registration fee for connectivity shall necessitate the distribution licensee to incur additional capital expenditure / R&M expenditure. Same needs to be considered in tariff accordingly. The Commission has considered the request of the Respondents.

8. Considering the aim and objectives of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the need to encourage consumer's participation across the length and breadth of this Commission's jurisdiction involving all the distribution utilities in RTS adoption and benefits likely to accrue to the Discoms, the Commission in exercise of power under Regulation 20 of the JERC (Solar PV Grid Interactive System based on Net Metering) Regulations, 2019, removes difficulties arising in implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana by waiving of the following for the domestic consumer under PMSGMBY:
- a. The cost of the meter installed by the distribution licensee in premises of the domestic consumers under PMSGMBY under regulation 8.2 of the JERC (Solar PV Grid Interactive System based on Net Metering) Regulations, 2019.
 - b. The charges for testing, installation & maintenance of the metering equipment / system for domestic consumers under PMSGMBY under regulation 8.5 of the JERC (Solar PV Grid Interactive System based on Net Metering) Regulations, 2019.
 - c. The registration fee for connectivity of the rooftop solar installation under PMSGMBY by the domestic consumers under regulation 16.1 of the JERC (Solar PV Grid Interactive System based on Net Metering) Regulations, 2019.
9. The Respondents are directed to create separate accounting for benefited consumer under this scheme and submit the quarterly report to the Commission. This order shall come into effect immediately and shall be applicable to all eligible domestic consumers seeking to install rooftop solar systems under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.
10. The Respondents are directed to take necessary steps for implementation of this order and ensure its wide dissemination amongst the Consumers.

Sd/-
(Jyoti Prasad)
Member (Law)

Sd/-
(Alok Tandon)
Chairperson

(Certified True Copy)


(S.D. Sharma)
Secretary I/c, JERC

Place: Gurugram, Haryana
Date: 8th August, 2025