

**BEFORE THE GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
GANDHINAGAR**

Petition No. 2475 of 2025

In the matter of:

Petition under Section 181 read with Section 86 of Electricity Act, 2003 read with Regulations 18, 19 and 20 of GERC (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016 and other applicable provisions for exemption from the requirement of entering into agreement for net metering for residential consumers installing rooftop solar PV Plants under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

Petitioner No. 1 : Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited
Represented By : Ld. Adv. Ms. Ranjitha Ramchandran,
Ld. Adv. Mr. Utkarsh Singh along with
Mr. K.M. Baleva, Mr. R.P. Soni and Mr. M.R. Parmar

Petitioner No. 2 : Madhya Gujarat Vij Company Limited
Represented By : Ld. Adv. Mr. Utkarsh Singh

Petitioner No. 3 : Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited
Represented By : Ld. Adv. Ms. Ranjitha Ramchandran,
Ld. Adv. Mr. Utkarsh Singh along with
Mr. S.N. Parmar

Petitioner No. 4 : Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited
Represented By : Ld. Adv. Mr. Utkarsh Singh along with Mr. K.B.
Vasava

V/s.

Respondent No. 1 : Torrent Power Limited, Ahmedabad
Represented By : Ms. Luna Pal and Mr. Vikas Kumar Singh

Respondent No. 2 : Torrent Power Limited, Surat
Represented By : Ms. Luna Pal and Mr. Vikas Kumar Singh

Respondent No. 3 : Torrent Power Limited, Dahej
Represented By : Ms. Luna Pal and Mr. Vikas Kumar Singh

Respondent No. 4 : Torrent Power Limited, Dholera
Represented By : Ms. Luna Pal and Mr. Vikas Kumar Singh

Respondent No. 5 : AspenPark Infra Vadodara Pvt. Limited
Represented By : Nobody was present.

Respondent No. 6 : Deendayal Port Authority
Represented By : Nobody was present.

Respondent No. 7 : GIFT Power Company Ltd.
Represented By : Nobody was present.

Respondent No. 8 : Jubilant Infrastructure Limited
Represented By : Nobody was present.

Respondent No. 9 : MPSEZ Utilities Limited
Represented By : Nobody was present.

Respondent No. 10 : Torrent Power Limited, MBSIR
Represented By : Ms. Luna Pal and Mr. Vikas Kumar Singh

Objector : Mr. Jayram C. Marathe
Represented by : Nobody was present.

CORAM:

Mehul M. Gandhi, Member
S. R. Pandey, Member

07/11/2025

ORDER

1. The present Petition has been filed under Section 181 read with Section 86 of Electricity Act, 2003 read with Regulations 18, 19 and 20 of GERC (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016 and other applicable provisions, seeking exemption from the requirement of entering into agreement for

net metering for residential consumers installing rooftop solar PV Plants under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

2. The Petitioner has prayed as under:

(a) "Admit the present Petition;

(b) Exercise power to relax or remove difficulties for removing the requirement of entering into Interconnection/Net metering Agreement for the Distribution Licensee with residential consumers, setting up Rooftop Solar PV Projects under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana;

(c) In the alternative, initiate proceedings for amendment of the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016 to exempt residential consumers, setting up Rooftop Solar PV Projects under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana from entering into a Interconnection/Net metering Agreement for the Distribution Licensee with; and/or

(d) Pass such further or other Orders as this Commission may deem just and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case."

3. Brief of the facts of the Petition are as under:

3.1. The present Petition is being filed by the Petitioners, Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited (UGVCL), Madhya Gujarat Vij Company Limited (MGVCL), Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited (PGVCL) and Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited (DGVCL) seeking amendment of the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016 (hereinafter "Net Metering Regulations 2016"). The amendment sought to relaxing the requirement of the agreement to be entered into by the consumers in respect of residential consumers installing Rooftop Solar PV Plants under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

3.2. It is submitted that the Net Metering Regulations, 2016 providing for the net metering arrangement recognizes the entering into an agreement between the

Consumers and the Distribution Company. The Relevant provisions of the aforesaid Regulations are as under:

"p) "Net Metering" means an arrangement under which Rooftop Solar PV System installed at Eligible Consumer's premises delivers surplus electricity, if any, to the Distribution Licensee after off-setting the electricity supplied by the distribution licensee to such Eligible Consumer during the applicable billing period.

q) "Net meter" means an appropriate energy meter capable of recording both import & export of electricity or a pair of meters one each for recording the import and export of electricity as the case may be;

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3 Scope and Application

3.1 These Regulations shall apply to the distribution licensee and consumers of electricity of distribution licensee availing supply from it in its area of supply in the State of Gujarat, or consumers who are receiving electricity from its own generating source but situated in the distribution licensee area.

3.2 The Eligible Consumer may install the Rooftop Solar PV System under' net metering arrangement which,

a) shall be within the permissible rated capacity as defined under these Regulations.

b) shall be located in the consumer's premises.

c) shall interconnect and operate safely in parallel with the distribution licensee network.

4 General Principles The distribution licensee shall provide the net metering arrangement to the eligible consumer, who intends to install grid connected Rooftop Solar PV System, in its area of supply on non- discriminatory and first come first served basis.

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6 Eligible Consumer and individual project capacity

6.1 In addition to the general eligibility defined in Regulation 2.1(1) of these Regulations, the Eligible Consumer for the Rooftop Solar PV System with net metering shall:

i. be a consumer of the local distribution licensee;

ii. own or be in legal possession of the premises including the rooftop or, terrace or building or infrastructure or open areas of the land or part or combination thereof on which the Solar PV System is proposed to be installed;

iii. connect the proposed Rooftop Solar PV System to the Distribution System of the Licensee;

iv. consume all of the electricity generated from the Rooftop Solar PV System at the same premises.

If the consumer is not able to consume all of generated electricity in the same premises, he shall be governed by Regulation 9 of these Regulations.”

3.3. Regulation 7 of the GERC (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016, inter-alia provide as under:

“.....

7 Procedure for Application:

Various activities and different authorities are associated with the Solar Rooftop PV project. It is necessary that the different entities carry out the works within prescribed time limit. Therefore, time frame prescribed in the table below shall be scrupulously followed by the concerned authorities.

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Sr. No.	Activity	Sub Activity	Duration in day(s)
6	POST TFR	On receipt of TFR from field, Head Office shall issue letter to applicant regarding In principle consent for connectivity, payment of connectivity charges and execution of connectivity agreement within 15 days. OR Issuing estimate to applicant for system strengthening (if required) to be paid within 30 days, payment of connectivity charges and execution of connectivity agreement.	5 days from receipt of TFR from field office
7	Signing of connectivity agreement and issuance of letter to applicant for completion of project	Case 1 (No system strengthening required) On payment of Connectivity Charges and execution of Connectivity Agreement within 15 days of consent. Letter to applicant to complete the project work within 6 months Case 2 (If system Strengthening required) On payment of Connectivity Charges and execution of Connectivity Agreement within 30 days along with payment of estimate. Letter to applicant to complete the project work within 6 months.	5 days from execution of agreement 5 days from execution of agreement

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3.4. It is submitted that the GERC (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016, have been subsequently amended vide amendments dated 06.10.2017, 23.01.2020, 31.05.2022, 04.09.2024.

3.5. The Third Amendment to the Net Metering Regulations 2016 notified in 2022 amended the definition of the term, net metering. The third amendment, also made provided for amendments in the Interconnection Agreement as provided under the principal Regulations. The amended definition of the term net metering reads as under:

“2(p) "net-metering" means a mechanism whereby solar energy exported to the Grid from Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic System of a Prosumer is deducted from energy imported from the Grid in units(kWh)to arrive at the net imported or exported energy and the net energy import or export is billed or credited or carried- over by the distribution licensee on the basis of the applicable retail tariff by using a single bidirectional energy meter for net metering at the point of supply;”

3.6. The GERC (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2024, amended Regulation 7 as under:

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6	POST TFR	<p><i>On receipt of TFR from field, Head Office shall issue letter to applicant regarding 'In Principle' consent for connectivity, payment of connectivity charges and execution of connectivity agreement within 15 days.</i></p> <p><i>OR</i></p> <p><i>Issuing estimate subject to Regulation 5.1, to Applicant for system strengthening to be paid within 30 days, payment of connectivity charges and execution of connectivity agreement.</i></p>	<p><i>2 days from receipt of TFR from field office</i></p>
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7	Signing of connectivity agreement and issuance of letter to applicant for completion of project work	<p>Case 1 (No system strengthening required) On payment of Connectivity Charges and execution of Connectivity Agreement within 15 days of consent. Letter to applicant to complete the project work within 6 months</p> <p>Case 2 (If system strengthening required) On payment of Connectivity Charges and execution of Connectivity Agreement within 30 days along with payment of estimate, if any. Letter to applicant to complete the project work within 6 months.</p>	<p>5 days from execution of agreement</p> <p>5 days from execution of agreement</p>
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.....”

- 3.7. It is submitted that the GERC (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016, as amended, provide for a period of 15 days within which interconnection/net metering agreement is to be executed between the concerned distribution licensee and the consumer/prosumer.
- 3.8. That the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was launched on 13.02.2024 to promote sustainable development and public welfare by providing up to, 300 units of free electricity per month to one crore household. The scheme is intended to increase the share of rooftop solar capacity and empower residential household to generate their own electricity.
- 3.9. Further, it is submitted that the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has emphasized the need for rapid implementation of this scheme to achieve the ambitious target. MNRE vide Letter dated 30.12.2024 has noted that the scheme targets one crore households to be implemented until FY 2026-27 and emphasised the role of Distribution Companies for successful implementation. MNRE vide said letter inter alia sought for simplification, net metering processes by eliminating requirement for Net Metering Agreement. This was stated as there is no

commitment required from the consumer and the Distribution Company has to abide by the Net Metering Regulations issued by the respective State Commissions. It was also requested that additional fees such as application, facilitation and connection charges are waived.

- 3.10. In light of the above, the matter has been considered, and it is felt that since there is no direct consumer commitment involved, the interconnection agreement may not be necessary. The application form itself may be considered as an agreement and the provisions of the Regulations as well as terms and conditions of the Orders passed by the Commission would be applicable to both parties.
- 3.11. It is also submitted that it would be beneficial if there is reduction in time and simplification of the process as recommended by MNRE considering the objective of the Scheme.
- 3.12. Therefore, with the intent to speed up the installation of solar rooftop system and to promote the rapid implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Serial Number 7 under Regulation 7 may have to be relaxed or modified in regard to the consumer under the said Scheme. Further reference in Serial Number 6 to agreement would have to be considered accordingly.
- 3.13. Hence, the present Petition is filed seeking the intervention of the Commission, for relaxation or amendment of the requirement of entering into interconnection/net metering agreement.
- 3.14. It is submitted that Regulation 18, 19 and 20 of the Net Metering Regulations, 2016, as amended from time to time, provide for the Power to relax, and Power to remove difficulty of the Commission. The said Regulations provide as under:

“18 Power to relax

The Commission may by general or special order, for reasons to be recorded in writing, and after giving an opportunity of hearing to the parties likely to be affected may relax any of the provisions of these Regulations on its own motion

or on an application made before it by an interested person, after following due process of law.

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20 Power to Removal of difficulty

If any difficulty arises in giving effect to these Regulations, the Commission may issue necessary orders or clarification/interpretation to remove such difficulties either on its own volition, or based on representations from stakeholders.”

3.15. It is therefore prayed before the Commission that it may exercise its power under the above-mentioned Regulations, to relax the requirement of entering into a Net metering/Interconnection Agreement by the Distribution Licensee with the consumer setting up a Rooftop Solar PV Project under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

3.16. Without prejudice to the above consideration of relaxation of requirement, it is submitted that the Commission also has powers to amend the Regulations:

“19 Power to amend

The Commission may from time to time add, vary, alter, suspend, modify, amend or repeal any provisions of these Regulations after following due process of law.”

3.17. It is submitted that the removal of the requirement to metering/interconnection agreement by the consumer/prosumer, will help in rapid implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The above consideration is being sought in view of the MNRE Letter and consideration of the aspects.

3.18. The Petitioner craves leave of the Commission to add any further submissions/grounds or file additional information at a later stage if so required based on the proceedings in the present Petition.

4. In compliance to the direction given by the Commission vide Daily Order dated 02.08.2025, the Petitioners have issued Public Notices in two Gujarati newspapers - Sandesh and Divya Bhaskar, and one English Newspaper - Indian Express on 09.08.2025, inviting comments / suggestions / clarifications from the stakeholders and also filed compliance affidavit in this regard vide its affidavit dated 11.08.2025.

5. In response to the Public Notice, one Objector viz. Mr. Jayram C. Marathe, filed his objections / suggestion in the present matter as under:
- 5.1. It is submitted that the Objector, Mr. Jayram C. Marathe, is a prosumer of the MGVL and voluntarily representing common consumers/prosumers.
- 5.2. It is submitted that Petitioners have sought to relax the provisions of net metering in respect of Residential consumers under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSG: MBY) notified vide Office Memorandum No. 318/17/2024, dtd. 07/06/2024.
- 5.3. It is submitted that PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana not only covers the Residential consumers to be eligible for Capital Finance Assistance (CFA) but also, Group Housing Societies, Residential welfares Associations for common facilities including EV charging up to 500 kW. The relevant Para 5-b, 5-e, 5-f and 5-h of the aforesaid Office Memorandum are reproduced hereunder.

"5) Central Financial Assistance:

b) Eligibility: For the purpose of CFA, residential RTS plant would be the grid connected solar power system tagged to a particular residential power connection of the local DISCOM and will only include installations on a roof/terrace/balcony or on top of elevated structures. Special RTS installations such as Building Integrated PV (BIPV) systems shall also be considered eligible for CFA support. To clarify, installations under metering mechanisms such as Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering shall be eligible for CFA if the installations are on any roof/terrace/balcony or on top of elevated structures or as BIPV and the metering arrangement is approved by the DISCOM.

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e) CFA Structure: The Central Financial Assistance for the residential sector shall be as per the following table:

S. No.	Type of Residential Segment	CFA
1.	Residential Sector (first 2 kWp of RTS capacity or part thereof)	60% of benchmark cost of 2 kWp
2.	Residential Sector (with additional RTS capacity of 1 kWp or part thereof)	40% of benchmark cost of additional kWp
3.	Residential Sector (additional RTS capacity beyond 3 kWp)	No additional CFA
4.	Group Housing Societies/ Residential Welfare Associations (GHS/RWA) etc, for common facilities including EV charging up to 500 kWp (@3 kWp per house)	As per CFA of S. No. (2) above

For GHS/RWAs, the upper limit of CFA supported RTS capacity is inclusive of individual rooftop plants installed by individual residents in the GHS/RWA.

f) The connection eligible under the scheme shall be dedicated only for common facilities and should not be utilized for providing electricity supply to GHS/RWA

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h) Effective CFA: The CFA for the scheme with effect from date of initiation, i.e., 13th February, 2024 is as follows:-

S. No.	Type of Residential Segment	CFA	CFA (Special Category States)
1.	Residential Sector (first 2 kWp of RTS capacity or part thereof)	Rs 30,000/kWp	Rs 33,000/kWp
2.	Residential Sector (with additional RTS capacity of 1 kWp or part thereof)	Rs 18,000/kWp	Rs 19,800/kWp
3.	Residential Sector (additional RTS capacity beyond 3 kWp)	No additional CFA	No additional CFA
4.	Group Housing Societies/ Residential Welfare Associations (GHS/RWA) etc, for common facilities including EV charging up to 500 kWp (@3 kWp per house)	Rs 18,000/kWp	Rs 19,800/kWp

To illustrate

- i. If a consumer installs a system of 1.5 kW, she is eligible for a CFA of 30,000x 1.5 = 45,000

- ii. *If a consumer installs a capacity of 2.5 kW, she is eligible for a CFA of ₹ $30,000 \times 2 + 18,000 \times 0.5 = 69,000$*
- iii. *If a consumer installs a capacity of 6 kW, she is eligible for a CFA of $30,000 \times 2 + Rs18,000 \times 1 = 78,000$*
- iv. *If an RWA installs a capacity of 100 kW, with 20 households, it will be eligible for a CFA of $18,000 \times 60$ kW (Lower of (20x3 kW), 100 kW) = 10,80,000*
- v. *If an RWA installs a capacity of 100 kW, with 50 households, it will be eligible for a CFA of $18,000 \times 100$ kW (Lower of (50x3 kW), 100 kW)= 18,00,000”*

5.4. It is submitted that the proposed relaxation for Net metering agreement and connectivity agreement may please be extended to the consumer categories eligible for CFA under PMSG: MBY such as Group Housing Societies, Residential Welfares Associations for common facilities including EV charging up to 500 kW which are eligible for CFA under PMSG: MBY.

At present, such common service connections are covered under RGP tariff category up to 150 kW only. Therefore, specific mention to exempt such prosumers having solar installation more than 150 kW as per the above provisions, from execution of Net Metering connectivity agreement will be necessary.

5.5. It is further clarified in Para 5-b that installation under metering mechanism such as group net metering and virtual net metering shall be eligible for CFA if installation on top of elevated structures or as BiPV and the metering arrangement approved by the DISCOM. It is requested that such consumers having group net metering and virtual net metering may also be exempted from net metering and connectivity agreements, as proposed by the Petitioners for residential consumers only.

5.6. It is submitted that a residential consumer opting for Roof Top Solar (RTS) up to 6 kW under PMSG: MBY has to pay following charges to the DISCOMs for connectivity of RTS with Grid.

1. Connectivity Charges - Solar Roof Top	→	Rs. 1500
2. Bi- Directional Meter Charges with SMC Box-Solar Roof	→	Rs. 1128.73
3. Bi-Directional Meter Testing Charges – Solar Roof Top	→	Rs. 100
4. Liability for Central Goods & Service Tax (CGST)	→	Rs. 111
5. <u>Liability for State Goods & Service Tax (SGST)</u>	→	<u>Rs. 111</u>
Total	→	Rs. 2950.73

The Objector has submitted the payment receipt for the above charges by one such consumer GHELABHAI AMBABHA DOBARIYA.

5.7. It further submitted that the directive given by Shri Sudeep Jain, Additional Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy in his letter dtd. 30/12/2024 at point no. 4 (i) & (ii), is reproduced hereunder.

“4. Your significant efforts in promoting rooftop solar adoption under PMSG:MBY are commendable. To further enhance the scheme's effectiveness and encourage consumer participation, I request your esteemed DISCOM to:

- i. Simplify Net-Metering Processes by completely eliminating requirement for Net-Metering Agreement since there is no commitment that is required from the consumer and DISCOM has to abide by the net- metering regulation issued by the SERC.*
- ii. Waive Additional Fees: Abolish application, facilitation, and connection charges, as the incentives provided under the scheme exceed your costs for inspecting/connecting rooftop solar.”*

In view of this, it is requested to waive above charges in respect of all categories of consumers covered under PMSG: MBY.

5.8. It is submitted that Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL) has issued Minutes of the Meeting held on 26.09.2024 regarding Implementation of GERC notification no. 13 of 2024 dtd. 06.09.2024 vide their letter no. GUVNL/SE-1/DE-3/Solar

Cell/SRT/1266, dtd. 03.10.2024, wherein, they have prescribed network strengthening charges for solar capacity (Recover from Consumers) for new Rooftop solar above 6 kW as under.

>6 to 12	Rs. 12000
>12 to 20	Rs. 21000
> 20 to 150 kW	Rs. 21000 + Rs. 1100 per add. kW

In addition to this, connectivity charges of Rs. 10,000 are also being recovered from the rooftop prosumers having plant capacity of 10 kW. The details of payment paid on 15.05.2025 by one such consumer RASILABEN CHANDRESHBHAI BHUT, are as under.

1. Service connection estimate charges as per GERC	-	Rs. 12000
2. Connectivity Charges - Solar Roof Top	-	Rs. 10000
3. Bi- Directional Meter Charges with SMC Box-Solar Roof	-	Rs. 2589.58
4. Bi-Directional Meter Testing Charges- Solar Roof Top	-	Rs. 300
5. Liability for Central Goods & Service Tax (CGST)	-	Rs. 260
6. Liability for State Goods & Service Tax (SGST)	-	Rs. 260
Total		Rs. 25409.58

It is submitted that levy of such charges from the Rooftop Solar prosumers are totally unjustified particularly, when MNRE is incentivizing DISCOMs for promoting Rooftop Solar by huge Cash payment of Rs. 43 Crore for the year 2024-25 to MGVL as per the letter at Annexure 2 to the response.

- 5.9. The Objector has submitted that it will not be out of place to bring to the notice of the Commission that one of the Petitioner MGVL has so far received Rs. 162 Crore as incentive from MNRE for its spectacular performance of PMSG: MBY and the entire amount has been considered as Income from other sources liable for Income-Tax. It will be worthwhile if the amount of incentives received from MNRE are utilized in reducing the burden on prosumers of PMSG: MBY due to unnecessary charges at par with other solar prosumers.

- 5.10. Such charges of connectivity and service connection charges of Rs. 10000 and Rs.12000 to the PMSG: MBY prosumer for 12 kW Solar RTS as shown above is preventing the consumers to avail the benefits of PMSG: MBY.
- 5.11. There is no justification for the connectivity charges and system strengthening charges particularly, when there is hardly any such case where the augmentation of Transformer capacity may be required. Such expenses were directed to be covered as revenue expenses vide Government Notification New Delhi dtd. 22nd February, 2024.
- 5.12. It is submitted that on one hand MNRE, Government of India is making all out efforts in promoting Rooftop Solar under PMSG: MBY. The DISCOMs are apprehensive of losing the revenue from paying consumers and therefore are trying to discourage the RTS prosumers by imposing such unwarranted, unjustified charges from the prosumers. In fact, RTS prosumers are helping DISCOMs with reduction in their expenses on Power Purchase and technical losses due to distributed solar generation. If such benefits due to RTS are quantified it will far outweigh the expenses if any are required in system strengthening. Instead of encouraging they are trying to recover as much amount as possible from such prosumers on one or other pretext which is evident from the connectivity charges from already existing consumers.
- 5.13. The Objector has requested the Commission that no charges whatsoever should be recovered by Petitioners from the Rooftop solar prosumers under PMSG: MBY. The existing regulations in this regard are applicable to all categories of consumers, PMSG: MBY prosumers may please be specifically exempted from the relevant provisions of the GERC regulations in this regard.
- 5.14. It is therefore requested to consider the above issues in the amendment under consideration.
6. The Petitioner UGVCL, vide affidavit dated 09.09.2025, submitted its reply to the Objections of Mr. Jayram C. Marathe as under:

6.1. Consideration of Group Housing Societies and Residential Welfare Associations:

6.1.1. It is submitted that the Objector has referred to the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in regard to Group Housing Societies and Residential Welfare Associations to the extent they are covered under the Scheme which is limited for common facilities and not providing electricity supply.

6.1.2. It is submitted that the Petition seeks relaxation or removal difficulties or in alternate amendment for removing the requirement of entering into Interconnection/Net metering Agreement for the Distribution Licensee with residential consumers, setting up Rooftop Solar PV Projects under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Therefore, the intention is to cover for all the projects registered and executed under said scheme. (i.e. this is also applicable for common utility connections as tariff of GHS/RWA is RGP tariff).

6.1.3. Any other aspect may not be considered.

6.2. Removal of charges such as connectivity charges, meter charges etc:

6.2.1. It is submitted that the Petitioner has filed the Petition on specific aspects. The Objector is seeking other amendments and exemptions which is outside the scope of the present Petition. There cannot be any prayer by the Objector in the Petition filed by the Petitioners. It is submitted that the Petitioner has only proposed certain specific aspects in the Petition and the same may be considered. Further, the public notice has also been issued only in respect of the Petition filed and therefore it would not be appropriate for aspects not in issue in the Petition to be considered in the present proceedings.

6.2.2. The Petitioner is not commenting on the claims and contentions charges being considered or imposed at this stage since these are not relevant to the scope of the Petition. The Objector is seeking for waiver of charges which is not subject matter of the present Petition.

6.2.3. It is submitted that the justification for the charges etc cannot be considered in the present Petition. There are no unwarranted or unjustified charges. The Objector is making unnecessary allegations against Distribution Companies. The charges by Distribution Companies are as approved by the Commission. The Objector has not itself raised any issue before the Commission and in fact has not even produced any charges imposed on itself. It is seeking to refer to other persons' charges which cannot be raised by the Objector, nor can the Objector file an affidavit to verify the charges to other consumers.

6.2.4. Further the document at Annexure 2 is for implementation of the GERC Notification 13 of 2024 being fourth amendment which included the distribution companies including Torrent. There can be no objection on the same. The attempt to interpret the document as imposing charges on its own is not correct. The charges are as per the Commission. Even otherwise, there is no challenge to such charges by any consumer, nor has any consumer/prosumer raised any issue. The Objector itself refers to the bills of two alleged persons, but those persons have not challenged the Bills nor claimed that the charges are contrary to any Regulation or Order. The present Petition is in regard to exemption of Net Metering Agreement and other issues cannot be raised. The Petitioner craves reference to the Rules and Regulations for their true scope and interpretation, and the interpretation of the Objector is not admitted.

6.2.5. However, it is submitted only by way of information that Government of Gujarat has issued the Resolution dated 05.08.2025 in regard to PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana wherein state support is provided as under:

“3 (b). State support: For new Rooftop Solar (RTS) systems up to 6 kW, the charges for the meter, meter testing, meter box, and connectivity (amounting to Rs. 2,950/-) shall be waived.

Clarification:

- *If a consumer's sanctioned load exceeds 6 kW but they install a new RTS system of up to 6 kW, they will still benefit from the Rs. 2,950/- waiver.*
- *Any additional charges beyond this amount shall be borne by the consumer.*

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7. In all other aspects, the parameters and terms & conditions of the prevailing regulations of the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (GERC) and its amendments from time to time, would be applicable.”

6.2.6. It is reiterated that the Objector cannot seek relief in the Petition initiated by the Petitioner.

7. Respondent No. 1 to 4, Torrent Power Limited, vide affidavit dated 16.09.2025, made its submission in the present matter as under:

7.1. It is submitted that that for any amendment to the Regulations, there is a process of prior publication of the Regulation as per the provisions of Section 181 of the Act. Accordingly, the Commission is requested to issue the draft amendment to the Regulations to enable all stakeholders to submit their comprehensive comments/suggestions.

7.2. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) vide its letter dated 30.12.2024 has sought for simplification of net metering process by eliminating requirement for Net metering Agreement since no commitment is required from the consumer and Discom has to abide by the Net Metering Regulation of the State Commission. Further, the MNRE letter also provides for waiving off application charges, facilitation charges, connection charges etc. as the same is covered by the incentive provided under the Scheme. In turn, the Petitioner has filed the present Petition.

7.3. In this regard, it is submitted that pending the present Petition, the Respondent is in receipt of a communication dated 06.08.2025 from GUVNL, the parent entity of the present Petitioner conveying a circular of EPD giving waiver of Rs. 2950/-. However, there is no clarity whether the said circular is applicable to private entity and if applicable, the mode of recovery of the charges to be waived.

7.4. Regarding the stand of the Petitioner that "since there is no direct consumer commitment involved, the interconnection agreement may not be necessary and the application form can be treated as an agreement", it is submitted that the interconnection agreement consists of key techno-commercial provisions

including details of legal ownership, need for compliances by consumer to various safety Rules and Regulations, metering, billing, and mechanism for handling defaults. The interconnection agreement forms the legal documentation and contains conditions for commercial settlement of net-metered injection/drawl thereby playing crucial role during disputes. The court of law while deciding disputes stipulates the production of original agreements, and other physical legal documents. Accordingly, the Respondent requests the Commission to continue the requirement of inter-connection agreement for all net-metering cases.

7.5. In case of area-specific difficulties, the distribution licensee may adopt alternate mechanism such as mandating the inter-connection agreement on post-facto basis to ensure that timelines set by MNRE are met by these distribution licensees.

7.6. Without prejudice to the above, it is submitted that if the Commission considers approving the Petitioner's proposal for relaxation from the agreement, then the same may be considered by mandating the submission of following essential documents:

- Application acknowledgement shared by MNRE should have all the relevant regulations like Solar net metering regulations and its amendments and all the safety regulations and technical codes shared by CEA, CERC, GERC and other government authorities including its amendments thereof, Terms & Conditions shared by the concerned SERC and the acknowledgement must have the customers signature as per the concerned DISCOM records. This is because, presently all applications are registered on MNRE/ GEDA portals. These portals may or may not be operative forever. In turn, the distribution licensee requires some data/information based on which it has granted grid connectivity to consumer.
- All other relevant documents like CEI certificate (for >10 kW cases)/Self Charging Certificate (for < 10 kW cases), Joint ownership NoC, Bank details to credit solar energy compensation amount. This is essential because in Case of any Technical failure/ hazards or ownership disputes, generally

court is insisting for original documents in physical form to determine the financial and legal liabilities having implications. Further, regarding Bank details, same is being collected in physical RTGS form and along with original cancelled cheque from consumer to avoid future conflicts.

- Documents as above are required to be provided to distribution licensee in hard copy by the customer/MNRE, as applicable, with customers signature for distribution licensee records, in case, there is a dispute/legal cases in future regarding billing or credit of the export units.

- 7.7. The Respondent TPL-D has requested the Commission to take note of its comments / suggestions before deciding the matter.
8. It is pertinent to note that the Commission has notified Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2025, Notification No. 10 of 2025 on 03.11.2025, after following due process of law.
9. The relief sought in the present Petition stands fully addressed by the notified GERC (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2025, rendering the present Petition infructuous.
10. Accordingly, the present Petition is disposed of as infructuous.

Sd/-

(S. R. Pandey)

MEMBER

Sd/-

(Mehul M. Gandhi)

MEMBER

Place: Gandhinagar

Date: 07/11/2025