

**BEFORE THE GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
AT GANDHINAGAR**

**Petition No. 2478 of 2025**

In the matter of:

Tariff for Agricultural Consumers of Torrent Power Limited (Ahmedabad Unit)

Petitioner : Energy & Petrochemicals Department (EPD),  
Government of Gujarat,  
Block No.5, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
New Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar.

Represented by : Smt. Alpana S. Dani

Respondent : Torrent Power Limited (Ahmedabad)  
"Samanvay", 600, Tapovan, Ambawadi,  
Ahmedabad-380015

Represented by : Ms. Luna Pal

**CORAM:**

**Mehul M. Gandhi, Member**

**S. R. Pandey, Member**

**18/07/2025**

**ORDER**

1. The Petitioner, Energy & Petrochemicals Department (EPD), Government of Gujarat (GoG), has filed the present Petition with the prayers allowing a uniform HP based tariff of Rs. 665/HP/Year for Agricultural Consumers of Torrent Power Limited (Ahmedabad Unit) for a further period of one year i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup>

March, 2025 and the subsidy amount paid by the State Government within the provisions of the budget estimates for the year 2024-25.

2. The facts mentioned in the Petition are stated as under:
  - 2.1. The State Government had decided to subsidize the distribution companies i.e. erstwhile Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) (now Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited - GUVNL) as well as the Ahmedabad Electricity Company Ltd. (AEC) (now Torrent Power Limited – Ahmedabad Unit) for losses due to implementation of Horse Power (HP) based Tariff for the agricultural sector since 1987. The State Government has continued the subsidy for the agricultural consumers of erstwhile GEB (now GUVNL) and AECo. Ltd. (now TPL-Ahmedabad) for the period up till now.
  - 2.2. The State Government has been subsidising the agricultural consumers of TPL – Ahmedabad to the extent of difference between the tariff decided by the Commission and the applicable HP based tariff for agricultural consumers of GUVNL.
  - 2.3. The State Government has decided to extend the relief in tariff of Agricultural Consumers of Torrent Power Limited (Ahmedabad Unit) for a further period of one year i.e. from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025 in line with the consumers of State DISCOMs subject to the condition that such connections will be supervised by checking / surprise checking by the appropriate authority of the company as well as the Electrical Inspectors, and if the consumption of electricity is found for the purposes other than agriculture, such connections shall be disconnected permanently. This decision has been communicated to Torrent Power Limited (Ahmedabad Unit) vide GR No. EPCD/TPL/20/2023/2348/K dated 13.02.2025.
  - 2.4. The prevailing HP based tariff for the consumers of distribution licensees of unbundled GEB (GUVNL), after exemption of 5% ED is as follows:

Connected Load in HP	Tariff applicable after subsidy
Up to 7.5 HP	Uniform Tariff of Rs. 665/HP/Year for all HP based Agricultural consumers
Above 7.5 HP	

The Petitioner submitted that the State Government has approved an amount of Rs. 250.00 Lacs in the Revised Budget Estimates for FY 2024-25 and released an amount of Rs. 180.81 Lacs vide GR No. EPCD/TPL/20/2023/2348/II/K dated 13.03.2025 and Rs. 69.19 Lacs vide GR No. EPCD/TPL/20/2023/2348/III/K dated 24.03.2025, aggregating to Rs. 250.00 Lacs, which is sufficient against the estimated amount for FY 2024-25 and outstanding claims of the Company.

3. The Respondent has filed its reply stating that its claim for FY 2024-25 is Rs. 257.50 Lacs including the shortfall of previous year of Rs. 53.02 Lacs. An amount of Rs. 250.00 Lacs has been received from the State Government during FY 2024-25 vide GR No. EPCD/TPL/20/2023/2348/I/K dated 13.02.2025 read with GR No. EPCD/TPL/20/2023/2348/II/K dated 13.03.2025 . Therefore, there is a shortfall of Rs. 7.50 Lacs.
- 3.1. The Respondent has requested the Commission to direct the Petitioner to release the shortfall amount of Rs. 7.50 Lacs at the earliest and for future years provide the subsidy amount in advance in line with Section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003 and also referred the observation of the Commission's Order dated 03.07.2024 in Petition No. 2361 of 2024 regarding the payment of subsidy, is reproduced as under:

*“We would like to draw attention of the Government towards this Commission's above Order dated 19.06.2017 in Petition No. 1650 of 2017 has observed that the Petitioner is required to adopt the practice of providing the subsidy amount in advance in line with Section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003. The Respondent has raised the issue of the outstanding claims of Rs. 53.02 Lacs towards the subsidy amount up to FY 2023-24. We direct to pay out the outstanding amount of subsidy to the Respondent after due verification.”*

- 3.2. The Respondent has submitted that the Ministry of Power has notified the Electricity (Second Amendment) Rules, 2023, which inter-alia provides for subsidy accounting and payment in advance as per section 65 of Electricity Act, 2003. It has further submitted that in case the subsidy has not been paid in advance, the Commission shall issue order for the implementation of the tariff without subsidy, which is provided in the Rules as in accordance with the provisions of the Section 65 of the Act.
4. The matter was heard on 16.07.2025.
5. Smt. Alpana S. Dani, on behalf of the Petitioner, submitted that the present petition has been filed for agricultural consumers of Torrent Power limited (Ahmedabad Unit) for the period from 1st April, 2024 to 31st March, 2025. She further submitted that an amount of Rs. 250 Lacs has been released against the budgetary provisions of Rs. 250 Lacs for FY 2024-25.
6. Ms. Luna Pal, on behalf of the Respondent, submitted that an amount of Rs. 250.00 Lacs has been received from the State Government against the total outstanding claim of Rs. 257.50 Lacs for FY 2024-25. She further submitted that there is a shortfall of Rs. 7.50 Lacs, which needs to be released at the earliest and requested that for future years, the subsidy amount be provided in advance in line with Section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003.
7. We have carefully considered the submissions made by the parties. We have also perused the orders passed by the Commission on 05.09.2002 in Petition No. 34 of 2000 regarding the tariff for supply of energy to different categories of consumers by TPL-Ahmedabad in its license area as well as the Commission's Tariff Orders for erstwhile GEB consumers including the agricultural consumers. The Government has decided to extend the relief in agricultural tariff to TPL-Ahmedabad consumers for a period of one year i.e. from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025.

8. The agricultural consumer has to pay on the basis of HP based tariff decided by the Government i.e. a Uniform Tariff of Rs. 665/HP/Annum for all HP based Agriculture consumers for the period from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025. The difference between the billing on the basis of TPL-Ahmedabad Tariff Schedule and the above payment received from the agricultural consumers shall be the subsidy from the State Government.

8.1. In view of the above, we find that relief can be granted to TPL-Ahmedabad agricultural consumers subject to the condition that such connections shall be supervised by checking / surprise checking by the appropriate authority of the Respondent as well as the Electrical Inspectors and if the consumption is found to be for the purposes other than agriculture, such connections shall be disconnected permanently. Hence, we allow the present Petition with the following stipulations:

The HP based tariff as mentioned in para 2.4 above is hereby allowed to be effective for working out subsidy amount for agricultural consumers of TPL-Ahmedabad for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025 subject to fulfilment of the condition as mentioned above and that the calculation of consumption for 8 hours shall be verified by the Chief Electrical Inspector, Gandhinagar.

8.2. We also note that the Commission, vide its order dated 19.06.2017 in Petition No. 1650 of 2017, had observed that the Petitioner is required to adopt the practice of providing the subsidy amount in advance in line with Section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003. The Respondent has raised the issue of the outstanding claims of Rs. 7.50 Lacs towards the subsidy amount up to FY 2024-25. Hence, we once again direct the Petitioner to adopt the practice of providing the subsidy amount in advance as per the provisions of Section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003 and pay out the outstanding amount of subsidy to the Respondent after due verification.

8.3. We also note that the Ministry of Power has notified the Electricity (Second Amendment) Rules, 2023, which specifies/provides for subsidy accounting and payment. In this regard, the Parties are hereby required to ensure the implementation of the afore-said rule in true spirit.

9. This petition is allowed accordingly.

10. With this order, this Petition stands disposed of.

-Sd-  
**S. R. PANDEY**  
Member

-Sd-  
**MEHUL M. GANDHI**  
Member

Place: Gandhinagar

Date: 18/07/2025

