

**Before**  
**UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
**Petition No.12 of 2026**

**In the Matter of:**

**Application seeking approval of Hon'ble Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission (UERC) for the investment on the additional projects sanctioned under REVAMPED DISTRIBUTION SECTOR SCHEME (RDSS) of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India.**

**And**

**In the Matter of:**

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd.,  
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan,  
Kanwali Road, Dehradun.

**...Petitioner**

**Coram**

<b>Shri M. L. Prasad</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Shri Anurag Sharma</b>	<b>Member (Law)</b>
<b>Shri Prabhat Kishor Dimri</b>	<b>Member (Technical)</b>

**Date of Order: April 07, 2026**

**ORDER**

This Order relates to the Petition filed by Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited (hereinafter referred to as "UPCL" or "the Petitioner" or "the licensee") seeking approval of the Commission for the investment on the additional projects sanctioned under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India.

**Background**

2. The Petitioner vide its letter No. 1211/Dir. (Project)/UPCL dated 13.06.2025 submitted its Petition for investment approval on the additional projects sanctioned under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India. under the provisions of the Clause 11 of Distribution and Retail Supply License and Regulation 40 of UERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2014 read with relevant provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

3. The Petitioner in its Petition under the facts of the case has submitted that, after the investment approval accorded by the Commission on Petition no. 35 of 2023 dated 19.10.2023 pertaining to 'RDSS to improve the quality, reliability and affordability of power supply to consumers through a financially sustainable and operationally efficient Distribution Sector by Reducing the AT&C losses to 12-15% and ACS-ARR gap to zero by 2024-25. Prepaid Smart Metering, Distribution System Strengthening/Modernization Works and other works as per scheme guidelines', some additional approvals were received under RDSS, the details of which are as follows: -

"...

**a) Increase in scope of smart meters:**

*Installation of Smart meters was not proposed by UPCL in rural areas of hills mainly because of the issues related to communication & accordingly the DTs & feeders of such areas were also excluded from the scope of Smart Metering. Further, keeping in view of the directions received from M/s PFC/MoP for complete energy accounting the entire scope of DT and feeder meters were included. MoP Letter no F.No.10.06.2022-Ur&SI(264638) dated 28.11.2022... and letter no. PFC:UPCL:079834 dated 06.12.2022..., wherein it is emphasized that "it is prudent to have 100% automated energy accounting/auditing under RDSS and 100% of metering of DTs & feeders to be ensured under RDSS", While including the same, UPCL also included the complete scope of LT/HT industrial consumers & non-domestic consumers into the ambit of Smart Metering keeping in view the unsatisfactory performance of AMR of these consumers.*

*In light of the above, UPCL. requested approval for the sanction of additional consumer and system meters (as per the table below). The originally sanctioned amount of Rs. 1,045.04 Cr. is proposed to be revised to Rs. 1,099.84 Cr. to cover the additional consumer and system meters. The recommendation of State DRC in this regard is annexed as ...*

Sr. No.	Particulars	Sanctioned			Additional Meters			Revised Sanction		
		Total Qty (nos.)	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	GBS (Rs. Cr.)	Total Qty (nos.)	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	GBS (Rs. Cr.)	Total Qty (nos.)	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	GBS (Rs. Cr.)
1	Consumer Metering	15,84,205	950.52	213.87	3,665	2.2	0.50	15,87,870	952.72	214.36
2	DT Metering	38,016	87.44	19.67	21,196	48.75	10.97	59,212	136.19	30.64
3	Feeder Metering	1,686	7.08	1.59	916	3.85	0.87	2,602	10.93	2.46
	Total	16,23,907	1,045.04	235.13	25,777	54.8	12.33	16,49,684	1,099.84	247.46

*RDSS Monitoring Committee in its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 26.07.2024... has approved the proposal for additional sanction of smart meters (system and consumer) under Smart Metering Project in UPCL, Uttarakhand with an estimated cost of project cost of Rs 54.80 Cr and corresponding GBS of Rs 12.32 Cr (along with applicable charges). Correspondingly, **approval of additional financial assistance for***

*balance system and consumer smart meters was received vide M/s PFC letter no 02:10: RDSS:2021:1:UPCL088427 dated 5th August, 2024 ... The total sanction cost now stands at Rs 1099.84 Cr. The Hon'ble Commission is already aware that the work of Smart Metering is already under progress.*

**b) PVTG works (PM-JANMAN)**

*Direction was received from Ministry of power (MoP) for the electrification work of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG households), Buxa & Raji tribes identified as PVTG in State of Uttarakhand, under RDSS Vide its letter no F. No 12/01/2022-UR&SI-II-Part-2 dated 05.12.2023 ... and PFC DO letter no 02:10:RDSS:2021:II:Utilities/085199 dated 08.12.2023 ... It was decided by UPCL to take up the electrification works of grid connected households through internal funds to achieve the target within stipulated time line (i.e. 15.01.2024) Accordingly, after the survey as per list of Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), UPCL submitted the proposal for electrification of PVTG HHs to nodal agency, M/s PFC for approval of MoP. RDSS Monitoring Committee in its special meeting (MCM-I) held on 29.12.2023 for PM-JANMAN approved the electrification... of 221 PVTG household with an estimated cost of Rs 40.42 Lakhs and with corresponding GBS of Rs.36.37 Lakhs. Correspondingly, approval of financial assistance for electrification of PVTG household under PM-JANMAN scheme was provided vide PFC letter 02:10:RDSS:2021:II:UPCL 085565 dated 4th January, 2024.*

*While execution. UPCL completed the electrification of identified 669 HHs with an as-executed cost of Rs. 59.16 lakhs. UPCL executed this work departmentally under its NSC tenders of the respective divisions. UPCL was among the front-runner states, those completed this task of social welfare before time.*

*RDSS Monitoring Committee, in its 42nd meeting held on 28.09.2024 approved the proposal for as executed cost of Rs. 59.16 Lakhs with corresponding GBS of Rs.53.24 Lakhs for the electrification of total 669 (as-executed) PVTG households in UPCL., Uttarakhand. Correspondingly, Financial assistance for approval of revised **Sanction cost for electrification of PVTG household under PM-JANMAN scheme was provided vide 02:10: RDSS:2021:II:UPCL089352 dated 5th October, 2024...***

**c) Electrification Work of Border-out-posts (BoP works)**

*Ministry of Power, Gol vide letter F.No.06/03/2021-UR&SI-II\_Part(1)(E-263831) dated 13.06.2023... intimated to Chief Secretary of GoUK regarding extension of electricity distribution infrastructure to specific locations in the State of Uttarakhand under RDSS i.e. to the border-out-posts as per information of locations contained in the annexure of aforesaid letter. UPCL in coordination with Nodal Agency, M/s Power Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, and ITBP submitted the preliminary DPR of amounting Rs 384.87 Cr. (including forest charge and PMA charge) to the Cost Committee of MoP on 25.09.2023 for approval.*

*The Cost Committee of MoP in various meetings examined the DPR and recommended for project cost of **Rs. 191.42 Cr. (excluding forest charge and PMA***

*charge*). However, during the 24th Monitoring Committee Meeting of RDSS held on 06.10.2023, under chairmanship of Secretary Power, Govt UPCL as well as other states represented its concern related to drastic cost reduction in the estimated cost by the cost committee of MoP keeping in view of the proposed greenfield work in the most difficult hilly terrain wherein electrification work at this height has never been taken by the discoms. Consequently, the Monitoring Committee directed the ministry/nodal agencies to re-assess the proposals with the discoms.

In response to the above facts, nodal agency convened the meeting of States of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim on 14.10.2023 at New Delhi, wherein the said DPR was revised to an estimated cost of Rs. 258.42 Cr. Further, the cost committee of MoP reviewed the proposal in a virtual meeting of 01.11.2023 through VC and finally agreed to the project cost for electrification of BoPs as Rs. 232.08 Cr. It is pertinent to mention this **agreed cost of Rs. 232.08 Cr. is excluding the PMA charges, the cost involved in forest/Row clearances and Land development cost for 33/11 kV S/s which is agreed upon for disbursement as per actuals during the work.**

Monitoring Committee of RDSS in its 25th meeting on 16.11.2023 accorded its approval (Annexure-13) for the BoP DPR amounting to Rs. 232.08 Cr with corresponding GBS of Rs.208.87 Cr. PMA charges was Rs 3.48 Cr with GBS of Rs. 3.13 Cr. Correspondingly, financial assistance to UPCL for implementation of Projects for extending Distribution Infrastructure works to Border area of Uttarakhand was provided vide 02:10:RDSS:2021:1:UPCL086546 dated 14th March, 2024...

A combined tender for both BoP and Vibrant Village Program (VVP) (details of VVP is in the next section) was floated in seven packages on January 17, 2024. The tender was extended six times over a period spanning eight-months due to limited participation. Technical Bid was opened on August 13, 2024 and Financial Bids were opened on October 14, 2024, revealing rates 42.64% higher than the estimated DPR cost. As UPCL neither having experience of working in such high terrains nor the rates are available for working on such high altitudes informed the State DRC about discovery of higher rates. State DRC meeting was held on 14.11.2024 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary GoU. DRC recommended the sanctioned cost of Rs. 232.08 Cr. for electrification works proposed and approved by MCM. Simultaneously, the DRC also recommended that these programs are Govt. of India programs and keeping in view of the discovered rates of execution which is 42.64% higher than sanctioned cost the differential amount has to be requested from MoP under RDSS. MoM of DRC is annexed as ...

UPCL then requested M/s PFC/MoP for sanction of additional amount based on the discovered rate in tendering process which is 42.64% higher than the sanctioned rate. Based upon the inputs received from the bidders and keeping in view of the conditions of terrain, UPCL apprised the following reasons/justifications for higher cost of bid to M/s PFC/MoP; (a) This is UPCL's first undertaking of work in such challenging

terrain, (b) The Schedule of Rates (SOR) was prepared for the first time for this specific type of work, (c) No historical cost benchmarks are available for accurate estimation, (d) Specialized transportation arrangements, including head load cartage, are required for areas inaccessible by vehicles.

Further, the project faces significant operational limitations due to its high-altitude location. **Working conditions are severely restricted, with only 3-4 months of favorable weather annually and limited daily working hours (6-7 hours).** This creates a challenging schedule compression scenario, requiring contractors to accomplish a full year's worth of work in approximately one-third of the time to meet the deadline.

Hence, the high altitude and difficult terrain significantly increase costs. Labor costs are substantially higher due to; (a) Special healthcare arrangements required for workers in high-altitude conditions, (b) Premium wages necessary to attract skilled workers to remote, challenging locations, (c) Additional safety measures and equipment needed for extreme conditions.

UPCL subsequently proposed the revised DPR of Rs. 327.50 Cr. to M/s PFC/MoP based upon the discovered cost. The same has been acknowledged by the nodal agency, M/s PFC & MoP, keeping in view of the strategic importance of the project, RDSS Monitoring Committee in its 48th meeting held on 17.04.2025 approved the proposal for extension of Distribution Infrastructure works to Border area of Uttarakhand with revised project cost of Rs 327.51 Cr with corresponding GBS of Rs.294.76 Cr. PMA charges was revised to Rs. 4.91 Cr. with a corresponding GBS of Rs. 4.42 Cr... Correspondingly, **financial assistance to UPCL for implementation of Projects for extending Distribution Infrastructure works to Border area of Uttarakhand was provided vide letter 02:10:RDSS:2021:1:UPCL092540 dated 23rd April, 2025.**

**d) Electrification of HHs under Vibrant Village Program (VVP works)**

MoP, vide letter no F.No. 12/11/2022-UR&SI-II-(E-269760) dated 28th November 2023 ... imparted direction to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for electrical work under Vibrant Villages Program in the State of Uttarakhand under RDSS. It is noteworthy that there are total 25 nos. identified vibrant villages, out of which 19 nos. are in Pithoragarh and 6 nos, are located in Uttarkashi district. The electrical infrastructure works in vibrant villages of Pithoragarh (ie. 19 Nos) are intricately linked with BoP infrastructure and are infact extension to BoP work. Therefore, schedule of rates (SoR) finalized for BoP is applicable for 19 nos. vibrant villages of Pithoragarh and normal RDSS SOR for 6 nos vibrant villages of Uttarkashi district. Accordingly, a DPR for extension of electrical infrastructure in vibrant villages has been prepared with estimated cost of Rs. 59.26 Cr. which after some deliberations with cost committee of MoP, finalized at Rs. 60.12 Cr. This Final DPR for 26 villages amounting to Rs.60.12 Cr was placed before the 30<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Committee of RDSS.

The 30<sup>th</sup> MCM approved ... the electrification work in 11 vibrant villages (1154 households) where average cost of electrification per household per village was below Rs.2.75 lakh (norm set by MoP). RDSS Monitoring Committee in its 30<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 08.03.2024 has approved the proposal for electrification works under Vibrant Village Program (VVP) in Uttarakhand with estimated cost of Rs 12.89 Cr. and with corresponding GBS of Rs.11.60 Cr.

• *Approved villages:*

- **Uttarkashi (3 villages): Jhala, Dharali, Purali – 322 households**
- **Pithoragarh (8 villages): Napalachchu, Navi, Kuti, Gunji, Garbyang, Sela, Baling, Tidang – 832 households**

The summary of proposed and sanctioned vibrant villages is hereunder:

<b>Division</b>	<b>Proposed Villages (HHs)</b>	<b>Approved Villages (HHs)</b>
Uttarkashi	06 (378 HHs) -9.68 Cr	03 (322 HHs)-6.65 Cr
Pithoragarh	20 (1297 HHs)- 50.44 Cr	08 (832 HHs) -6.24 Cr
<b>Total</b>	<b>26 (1675 HHs )-60.12 Cr</b>	<b>11 (1154 HHs) -12.89 Cr</b>

Correspondingly, **Financial assistance to UPCL for implementation of Projects under Revamped Distribution sector scheme for electrical works under vibrant village program in Uttarakhand was provided vide 02:10:RDSS:2021:1:UPCL086547 dated 14th March, 2024...**

As the work of VVP had been tendered along with BoP, **Lol for BoP as well as VVP works has been placed to L-1 bidders on 14.05.2025.**

e) **Auxiliary items (LT Cable for DT Smart Metering): -**

Ministry of Power (MoP) vide its letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023 issued guidelines for standard BoQ for additional sanction of LT auxiliary items for Smart Metering under RDSS. The said guidelines had been finalized only after the Monitoring Committee amended the guidelines in its 27<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 25.01.2024...

UPCL, vide its letter dated 07.03.2024 requested for sanction of LT auxiliary items for all awarded Consumer meters and DT meters, amounting to Rs. 262.22 crore which was further optimized to Rs.140.99 Cr. in line with the discussions in various review meetings. It is pertinent to mention that UPCL proposed the armored service cable on the input side of the Smart Meters to prevent the possibility of theft of electricity.

Nodal agency and MoP, **in line with the approvals of LT auxiliaries given to other states recommended and approved only cables for DTs where ever the same is not available as per requirement. Service cable was not considered by Nodal Agency/MoP.** Accordingly, UPCL vide letter dated 16.10.24 submitted the proposal amounting to Rs. 20.19 Cr, details of which is given below:

SN	DT Capacity	DT No.	Cable size	Cable Qty (in meters)	Unit price (Rs/ meter)	Total (Rs Cr.)
1	25 KVA	22,179	1x35 sq. mm.	7,09,715	61.97	4.40
2	63 KVA	10,781	1x70 sq. mm.	3,44,995	109.26	3.77
3	100 KVA	9,753	1x120 sq. mm.	3,12,106	153.29	4.78
4	160 KVA	217	1x240 sq. mm.	6,934	306.58	0.21
5	250 KVA	2,514	1x400 sq. mm.	80,461	472.92	3.81
6	400 KVA	1,078	1x630 sq. mm.	34,480	719.17	2.48
7	500 KVA	151	2Rx1x400 sq. mm.	9,664	472.92	0.46
8	630 KVA	95	2Rx1x400 sq. mm.	6,080	472.92	0.29
		<b>46,768</b>		<b>1,504,435</b>	<b>2,769.03</b>	<b>20.19</b>

RDSS Monitoring Committee in its 45<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 10.01.2025 approved the proposal for auxiliary cable for DT smart metering ... works of Uttarakhand with project cost of Rs 20.19 Cr with corresponding GBS of Rs.18.17 Cr. (PMA charges Rs.0.30 Cr. with corresponding GBS of Rs.0.27 Cr). **Correspondingly, proposal of UPCL for sanction of auxiliary items to UPCL for DT Smart Metering works under RDSS was provided by nodal agency vide its letter 02:10:RDSS:2021:I:UPCL:091039 dated January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

**f) DA-JGUA (Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan)**

With reference to Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Gol letter no. D.O. 18015/04/2022-PVTG dated 18.09.2024 ... and Ministry of Power (MoP), Gol letter no. D.O. No. 12/01/2022-UR&SI-II, dated 21.09.2024 ...vide which the direction was received for the electrification work of identified all tribal households (HHs) and public institutions in 128 villages as per list provided under DAJGUA (erstwhile PMJUGA) under RDSS.

As per the list received of 128 villages, after survey, no beneficiaries were found in 68 nos, villages. No grid is available in 1 village in District Pithoragarh wherein 129 nos. beneficiaries are being proposed to be electrified through standalone solar. 15 villages are not qualifying for grid electrification wherein cost of electrification is more than Rs. 2.75 lac. In balance of villages, including 9 additional villages identified during survey in Dehradun district, total 289 nos. beneficiaries are being proposed to be electrified through the grid. Further the nodal agency apprised the DPR proposal for electrification of total 226 households (207 HHs and 19 nos. public institution) amounting to Rs. 0.90 Cr. keeping in view of RDSS norms...

RDSS Monitoring Committee in its 47<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21.03.2025 has approved the proposal for electrification of un-electrified tribal households and public institutions under DA-JGUA amounting to Rs. 0.90 Cr... This approval was subject to electrification works in un-electrified tribal households / habitations as per norms issued by MoP letter dated 21.12.2023. The corresponding GBS for the same was Rs. 0.81 Cr. The discovered average cost for household was Rs 38,867.00 (Thirty eight

*thousand eight hundred sixty-seven only). Correspondingly, financial assistance to UPCL for implementation of Projects for electrification of non-electrified tribal households under DA-JGUA Uttarakhand was provided vide letter 02:10: RDSS:2021:I:UPCL092119 dated 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2025."*

4. The Petitioner in its Petition under the Relief Sought has requested the Commission to:

*"The sunset clause of RDSS scheme as per latest available guidelines is 31.03.2026 hence after due approvals UPCL has gone ahead with requisite tendering and execution of work. The relief in this regard from Hon'ble Commission is requested.*

*This is pertinent to mention that as per scheme guidelines, State of Uttarakhand is a special category State, and receiving 90% grant under the scheme subject to PQ and REF qualification under the scheme. The 10% counterpart funding will also be made available from GoU in all cases and agreed in respective DRC meetings ... it is again to mention that UPCL has already been qualified under evaluation of the scheme for FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 and receiving the grant accordingly."*

5. On examination of the proposal made in the Petition & Detailed Project Report (DPR), certain deficiencies/infirmities were identified and accordingly, the Commission vide its letter No. 1236 dated 10.11.2025 directed the Petitioner to furnish point-wise reply on the same latest by 09.12.2025. In response to the deficiencies/infirmities raised by the Commission, Petitioner vide its letter No. 2690/D(P)/UPCL/C-4 dated 18.12.2025 submitted its point-wise reply as follows:

"

**General**

- (1) UPCL under the 'specific legal provision under which Petition is being filed' has submitted that it has filed the Petition under 'Regulation 40 of UERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2004'; however, the same Regulation is not in existence as the same has been repealed by UERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2014. Therefore, UPCL is required to submit why the instant Petition be not admitted as UPCL has failed to file the instant Petition under the appropriate legal provision.

**Reply-**

*Hon'ble Commission is humbly requested to read it as Clause 40 of the UERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2014, as the same is a typographical error in the submitted petition.*

- (2) UPCL is required to confirm under affidavit that no work proposed under the instant Petition has been covered/included in the earlier approvals accorded by the Commission, nor any duplicity of works exists amongst the proposals furnished before the Commission. In case of any exception, UPCL is required to clearly highlight the same and furnish the justification for any such duplicity or repetition.

**Reply-**

UPCL confirms that approval of no work till date coincides with the work proposed under the instant petition, and no duplicity of works exists in the proposal furnished before the Commission. The affidavit also annexed herewith in this regard.

- (3) UPCL is required to furnish the details of land acquisition along with supporting documents in support of the works proposed under the instant Petition.

**Reply-**

It is to submit that land for substations has already been identified and the process of handing over of the same to UPCL is at various stages with ITBP/District administration. Once the land will be handed over to UPCL the same shall be handed over to the TKC's (Turn Key Contractor's)...

- (4) UPCL is required to furnish separately the details of forest clearance/wildlife clearance and Geological approval requirement, if any, for the works proposed under the instant Petition.

**Reply-**

As per the condition given in the SBD Part-2 Employers Requirement Clause no-16, "Wherever forest clearance is envisaged for execution of work, clearance of forest department for tree cutting, if required, shall be arranged by the Project Manager and compensation shall also be paid by the Project Manager. Necessary fee if required to pay to Govt. dept. for arranging such clearances shall be paid by Project Manager. However, the Contractor would require to provide all necessary assistance for execution of this work." Therefore, it is to submit that wherever forest clearances will be required, the same shall be arranged as per the procedures laid down/available in this regard.

- (5) UPCL in the certified true copy of the resolution passed by the BoD in 116<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 15.02.2024 has mentioned that: -

**"Item no. 116.11: Approval of DPRs for Electrification of ITBP Border-out-posts (BOPs), Electrification of villages under Vibrant Village Programme (VVP), Electrification of locations identified for 4G saturation and Electrification of PVTG Households under PM JANMAN under centrally sponsored, Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in UPCL".**

**"RESOLVED THAT** the approval of the Board be and us hereby accorded to DPRs of Electrification of ITBP Border-out-posts (BoPs), Electrification of Villages under Vibrant Village Programme (VVP), Electrification of locations identified for 4G saturation and Electrification of PVTG Households under PM JANMAN under centrally sponsored Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in UPCL".

In this regard, it is observed that the aforesaid BoD approval neither specify the total amount of works (inclusive or exclusive of taxes and duties) for which the BoD

approval has been accorded nor any detail w.r.t. the variation allowed has been mentioned. UPCL is required to clarify in this regard and furnish the relevant pages mentioning the amount against which BoD approval has been accorded for the proposed works.

**Reply-**

The agenda item submitted before the board in this regard contains the cost and other related details is hereby annexed as ... Further, UPCL confirms that the total amount of works for which BoD approval has been accorded is inclusive of taxes.

- (6) UPCL is required to furnish the project completion time for the individual works proposed at (a) to (f) in the instant Petition.

**Reply -**

- (a) Smart metering works – The execution period is 27 months as per contract agreement (i.e. completion period is up to June 2026) and thereafter, O&M period 93 months (i.e. up to March 2034).
- (b) PVTG works – Already Completed in August 2024 (Total identified 669 Households electrified).
- (c) BoP (Border out post) works – As per NOA, target date of completion is 31st March 2027.
- (d) VVP works As per NOA, target date of completion is 31st March 2027.
- (e) Auxiliary Item – The work of installation of auxiliary cable is associated with Smart Metering of proposed distribution transformers which is likely to be completed by Mar-26.
- (f) DAJGUA – December 2025.
- (7) UPCL is required to furnish the phasing of year-wise expenditure for the individual works proposed at (a) to (f) in the instant Petition.

**Reply -**

<b>Phasing of Year wise Expenditure (in Rs. Cr.)</b>								
<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Sanctioned Cost</b>	<b>Awarded Cost</b>	<b>FY 2023-24</b>	<b>FY 2024-25</b>	<b>FY 2025-26</b>	<b>FY 2026-27 (Projected)</b>	<b>FY 2027-28 (Projected)</b>	<b>FY 2028-29 (Projected)</b>
Smart Metering Works (Additional Sanction)	54.80	96.42	-	-	0.86	11.46	10.85	10.85
Loss Reduction works DT Auxiliary Cable	20.19	9.98*	-	-	4.5	15.69	-	-
Electrification of ITBP Border Out Posts(BOP)	327.51	327.51	-	-	15	225	87.51	-
Electrification of Households under Vibrant Village Program(VVP)	12.89	12.97	-	-	-	7.5	5.39	-
Electrification of unelectrified Household under PVTG (PMJANMAN) scheme	0.59	0.59**	-	0.59	-	-	-	-
Electrification of unelectrified Household under DAJGUA scheme	0.90	0.90				0.90		

\* Till Date  
\*\*Executed Cost

- (8) UPCL is required to furnish the financing details for the individual works proposed at (a) to (f) in the instant Petition. Further, UPCL is required to furnish the copy of PQ & REF qualification under the RDSS project for eligibility of 90% grant.

**Reply -**

Sr. No.	Activity Name	Sanctioned letter reference number by Nodal Agency M/s PFC Ltd. & date	Sanctioned Project Cost (Rs. in Cr.)	GBS (@22.5% for SM & 90% for other work of Sanctioned) (Rs. in Cr.)	Sanctioned PMA Charges (Rs. in Cr.)	GBS for PMA Charges (@90% of PMA sanctioned) (Rs. in Cr.)	
1	Smart Metering Works (Additional Sanction)	02:10:RDSS:2021:I:UPCL:088427 Dt. 5.08.2024	54.8	12.32	0.31	0.28	
2	DT Auxiliary Cable.	02:10:RDSS:2021:I:UPCL:091.039 Dt. 14.01.2025	20.19	18.17	0.30	0.27	GoU is funding the balance 10% amount of State share for all these projects. Further, GoU is also funding for State share of GST component.
3	Electrification of ITBP Border out Posts	02:10:RDSS:2021:I:UPCL:092540 Dt. 23.04.2025	327.51	294.76	4.91	4.42	
4	Electrification of Households under Vibrant Village Program	02:10:RDSS:2021:I:UPCL:086547 Dt. 14.03.2024	12.89	11.60	0.19	0.17	
5	Electrification of unelectrified Household under PVTG (PMJANMAN) scheme	02:10:RDSS:2021:II:PFC:UPCL:089352 dated 05.10.2024	0.59	0.53			
6	Electrification of unelectrified Household under DAJGUA scheme	02:10:RDSS:2021:I:PFC:UPCL:092119 dated 26.03.2025	0.90	0.81			

UPCL has already been qualified with 88.82 marks for FY 2021-22 and 60.02 marks for FY 2022-23 after PQ-REF evaluation by MoP. The orders for the evaluation for FY 2021-22 and the extract of MoM of Monitoring Committee of MoP for FY 2022-23 are annexed as Annexure- 3 (1 page) & 4 (2 pages) respectively.

- (9) UPCL is required to furnish the work-wise status of tender and execution of the works proposed at (a) to (f) in the instant Petition.

**Reply -**

- (a) Smart metering works (additional scope) – The additional scope was already included during tendering, and the contract agreement has been done accordingly.

Smart Meter Work progress under RDSS- UPCL					
Meter Type	Total Scope (As per 1045.04 Cr.)	Additional Scope (As per 54.80 Cr.)	Total Revised Scope (as per 1099.84 Cr.)	Total Cumulative Progress as on 07.12.2025	% Progress
Consumer Meter	15,84,205	3,665	15,87,870	3,82,878	24.1%
DTR Meter	38,016	21,196	59,212	6,717	11.3%
Feeder Meter	1,686	916	2,602	2,476	95.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,23,907</b>	<b>25,777</b>	<b>16,49,684</b>	<b>3,92,071</b>	<b>23.8%</b>

- (b) PVTG works – Already Completed.
  - (c) BoP (Border out post) works/VVP works – Notification of Award (NOA) for all the seven packages have been issued on 14.05.2025. Survey work is underway for all the packages at present.
  - (d) Auxiliary Item – The cable for DT metering is being procured centrally, and for the installation of the same labour contract is being done by the respective circles.
  - (e) DAJGUA – As on 08.12.2025, execution work at 134 out of 207 HH's and 3 out of 19 PI's has been completed.
- (10) UPCL is required to furnish legible copy of page nos. 80, 95, 96, 97, 98 & 153 of the Petition in 07 sets.

**Reply-** The desired copies of the said pages are hereby annexed as Annexure-5

- (11) UPCL is required to submit details of firm/organization selected by UPCL against PMA sanctioned by MoP for individual works proposed at (a) to (f) in the instant Petition along with details of experts/manpower working against the same.

**Reply-**

M/s Medhaj Techno Concept Private Limited has been appointed as PMA for the Smart Metering and Loss Reduction Works sanctioned under RDSS. It is pertinent to mention that for PVTG and DAJGUA, no funding against PMA has been accorded. The process for signing of supplementary agreement with the PMA for the work of Border-out-post, VVP, auxiliary item, along with Rishikesh undergrounding and SCADA is under process.

- (12) UPCL is required to submit cost benefit analysis for the individual works proposed at (a) to (f) in the instant Petition.

**Reply-**

It is humbly submitted that, (a) Cost-benefit analysis for Smart Metering has already been commented on, in the earlier petition submitted, wherein the investment approval has already been provided by the Hon'ble Commission vide order dated, 19 October, 2023. (b) The BoP/VVP and works are important from a strategic point of view and PVTG/DAJGUA works are last mile household electrification (social sector work as per requirement of Ministry of Tribal Affairs), therefore the cost-benefit analysis has neither been calculated nor been asked by MoP during sanctioning of the same. (c) An auxiliary cable for DT metering is essentially required DT smart metering, envisaged for better energy accounting, which is one of the mandates of Smart metering project.

- (13) UPCL is required to submit documentary evidence/sanction letter with regard to Infusion of equity from GoU for the individual works proposed at (a) to (f) in the instant Petition.

**Reply-**

*Minutes of the Meeting of the Distribution Reforms Committee (DRC) of RDSS, of Govt. of Uttarakhand is hereby attached as...*

- (14) *UPCL is required to confirm that all the Terms & Conditions/Technical Specifications/Requirements mentioned in the guidelines/Orders of MoP/PFC/REC pertaining to RDSS shall be comply for the individual works proposed at (a) to (f) in the instant Petition.*

**Reply-**

*UPCL confirms that "all the Terms & Conditions/Technical Specifications/Requirements" mentioned in the guidelines/SBD/subsequent orders of MoP/PFC/REC about RDSS shall be complied with for the individual works proposed at (a) to (f) in the instant Petition.*

**Work specific deficiencies/requirements of additional information are mentioned hereunder: -**

**(a) Increase in scope of smart meters (Rs. 54.80 Cr., PMA Rs. 0.31 Cr. Total Rs. 55.11 Cr)**

- (1) *UPCL at page no. 1 of its Petition has mentioned that MoP in its letter dated 06.12.2022 has emphasized that "it is prudent to have 100% automated energy accounting/auditing under RDSS and 100% of metering of DTs & feeders to be ensured under RDSS". In this regard, UPCL, is required to confirm that all the DT's and feeder in the State of Uttarakhand would be metered after installation of additional Smart Meters as proposed in the instant Petition.*

**Reply -**

*The sanctioned quantity of smart meters was derived based on the actual availability of DTs and Feeders as per UPCL system data of October 2022, which reflected 59,212 nos. of DTs (excluding Agricultural DTs and 16 kVA DTs) and 2,602 nos. of Feeders. The total quantity was sanctioned after incorporation of the additional requirement assessed at that stage.*

*As of now, UPCL has set the target to complete the installation of smart meters against the sanctioned quantity in a time-bound manner. Additionally, UPCL has requested PFC/MoP to accord approval for additional smart meter quantity based on the latest availability of DTs and Feeders and in line with current field data. The DTs and Feeders, which may increase in upcoming years, have also been taken into consideration.*

*Accordingly, after installation of the sanctioned quantity and subsequent installation of the additional quantity being sought from PFC/MoP, 100% DT metering and 100% Feeder metering shall be ensured across the State of Uttarakhand.*

- (2) *UPCL is required to furnish the division-wise bifurcation of total 25,777 additional Meters i.e., consumer Meters (3,665), DT Meters (21,196) and feeder Meters (916) which are to be installed against the total cost of Rs. 54.8 Crores. Further, confirm which consumers would be covered under the proposed 3,665 consumer Meters.*

**Reply -**

The division-wise bifurcation of an additional 25777 meters i.e Consumer Meters- 3665, DTR Meters- 21196, Feeder Meters- 916 as given below:

S.No.	Division	Consumer Meters	DT Meter	Feeder Meter
1	EDD_ROORKEE_RURAL	74	187	10
2	EDD_ROORKEE_URBAN	26	145	-8
3	EDD_RAMNAGAR_ROORKEE	58	86	2
4	EDD_LAKSAR	65	-24	3
5	EDD_RUDRAPUR II	66	325	2
6	HALDWANI_Town	65	-16	3
7	EDD JAWALAPUR	103	154	2
8	EDSD_VIKASNAGAR	33	1505	7
9	EDSD_HERBERTPUR	0	-38	0
10	EDD_BHAGWANPUR	244	307	3
11	EDD_HARIDWAR_URBAN	94	36	10
12	EDD-HALDWANI-RURAL	109	-135	-10
13	NAINITAL_RAPDRP TOWN	69	-42	1
14	EDD_KHATIMA	14	-91	1
15	EDD_Ramnagar	111	631	13
16	NAINITAL_Bhowali TOWN	0	-73	-6
17	EDD ALMORA_ ALMORA TOWN	37	1263	46
18	EDD BAGHESWAR_BAGESHWAR TOWN	17	1462	38
19	EDD RANIKHET_RANIKHET TOWN	34	1673	83
20	EDD CHAMPAWAT_CHAMPAWAT TOWN	20	1218	48
21	EDD CHAMPAWAT_LOHAGHAT TOWN	0	-41	-4
22	EDD CHAMPAWAT_TANAKPUR TOWN	0	-41	25
23	EDD PITHORAGARH_PITHORAGARH TOWN	40	2426	83
24	EDD GOPESHWAR_CHOMLI GOPESHWAR total Circle	54	3213	145
25	EDD PAURI_PAURI TOWN	24	1156	44
26	EDD SRINAGAR_SRINAGAR TOWN	45	1075	59
27	EDD TEHRI_CHAMBA TOWN	0	-23	-3
28	EDD TEHRI_MUNI KI RETI TOWN	0	-148	-13
29	EDD TEHRI_TEHRI TOWN	92	2294	94
30	EDD Uttarkashi_Uttarkashi Town	32	1349	53
31	EDD_SIDCUL	456	18	22
32	EDD_BAZPUR	86	309	-12
33	EDD_JASPUR	81	-601	1
34	EDD_KASHIPUR	179	-595	-2
35	EDD_RUDRAPUR	454	128	24
36	EDD-SITARGANJ	112	54	0
37	EDD_MOHANPUR	198	179	5
38	EDD_RISHIKESH	56	-87	-14
39	EDD_RAIPUR-DEHRADUN	66	-51	-2
40	EDD_Central Dehradun U	98	28	43
41	EDD_South Dehradun U	105	80	20
42	EDD_North Dehradun U	140	-20	28
43	EDD_Doiwala	35	50	4

S.No.	Division	Consumer Meters	DT Meter	Feeder Meter
44	EDD KOTDWAR_KOTDWAR TOWN	73	1871	68
TOTAL		3665	21196	916

The variation in counts of meters is since during preparation of the revised DPR, the DTR database was revalidated through field verification and cross-checking with the updated asset records. This exercise identified certain discrepancies in the earlier DPR, wherein some DTRs were incorrectly mapped to divisions. After correcting these mapping errors, the actual count of DTRs in some divisions/town areas decreased accordingly.

Further, it is pertinent to mention that the additional consumer meters proposed are, LTCT Consumer Meters above 75 kW – 331 nos. and HTCT Consumer Meters – 3,334 nos, which were earlier covered under AMR.

- (3) It is observed that the RDSS scheme envisages installing Smart Meters at 100% DTs & feeder points. However, UPCL has in total proposed to install Smart Meters at 38,000 (earlier sanctioned) + 21,000 (additional Smart Meters proposed in the instant Petition) i.e. total 59,000 Meters at DT level, whereas, approximately 94,000 DTs exist in UPCL's network, UPCL is required to confirm regarding the Smart Meter installation at balance 35,000 DTs (94,000-59,000).

**Reply-**

Confirms that the sanctioned quantity of DT smart meters under RDSS was derived based on the availability of Distribution Transformers (DTs) as on October 2022. During that period a total of 84899 DTs existed in the UPCL network. Out of these 16627 DTs were feeding exclusively agricultural consumers and among these 9,060 DTs were of 16 kVA capacity.

As per the RDSS guidelines, all Distribution Transformers (DTs), other than DTs feeding only agricultural consumers and DTs below 25 kVA capacity, shall be metered with communicable AMI/AMR meters. Accordingly, smart meters were not proposed for Agricultural DTs and 16 kVA DTs, and therefore they were not considered in the sanctioned quantity.

At present, the number of DTs in UPCL network has been increased to approximately 94,000 nos. In order to achieve 100% DT metering (except agriculture DTs and 16kva DTs) and in line with the RDSS framework, UPCL has already submitted the proposal for approval of additional DT smart meter quantity to the Nodal Agency/Ministry of Power (MoP).

- (4) UPCL is required to confirm that the cost Rs. Is 54.48 Crores inclusive of the cable cost or not?

**Reply -**

It is to submit before the Hon'ble Commission that cable cost is not included in the estimated cost of Rs. 54.48 Crore. The said cost is the cost of AMI based upon the benchmark cost as provided by the Nodal Agency.

- (5) UPCL is required to submit the status of division-wise Smart metering works as on 31 October 2025 as sanctioned by the Commission vide its Order dated 19.10.2023.

**Reply -**

The status of division-wise Smart metering works as on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 is mentioned underneath: -

AMISP	Circle	DIVISION	TOTAL METERS	
			Scope	Total Installed upto 31-Oct-25
M/s Genus	DEHRADUN_RURAL_CIRCLE	DOIWALA	35298	4553
M/s Genus	DEHRADUN_RURAL_CIRCLE	EDD MOHANPUR	60671	8810
M/s Genus	DEHRADUN_RURAL_CIRCLE	RISHIKESH	62803	3923
M/s Genus	DEHRADUN_RURAL_CIRCLE	RURAL_DEHRADUN	72277	7675
M/s Genus	DEHRADUN_URBAN_CIRCLE	DEHRADUN_CENTRAL	62467	15913
M/s Genus	DEHRADUN_URBAN_CIRCLE	DEHRADUN_NORTH	52693	11157
M/s Genus	DEHRADUN_URBAN_CIRCLE	DEHRADUN_SOUTH	98678	34612
M/s Genus	HARIDWAR_CIRCLE	EDD JAWALAPUR	91822	10480
M/s Genus	HARIDWAR_CIRCLE	HARIDWAR_URBAN	45915	4869
M/s Genus	HARIDWAR_CIRCLE	LAKSAR	58824	8527
M/s Genus	HARIDWAR_CIRCLE	RURAL_SIDCUL	6629	4952
M/s Genus	ROORKEE_CIRCLE	EDD BHAGWANPUR	45345	2454
M/s Genus	ROORKEE_CIRCLE	EDD RAMNAGAR ROORKEE	53494	3756
M/s Genus	ROORKEE_CIRCLE	ROORKEE_RURAL	50278	1948
M/s Genus	ROORKEE_CIRCLE	ROORKEE_URBAN	61506	4460
M/s Genus	KARANPRAYAG_CIRCLE	EDD GAIRSAIN	8910	37
M/s Genus	KARANPRAYAG_CIRCLE	GOPESHWAR		793
M/s Genus	KARANPRAYAG_CIRCLE	NARAYANBAGAR		14
M/s Genus	KARANPRAYAG_CIRCLE	RUDRAPRAYAG		62
M/s Genus	EDC_CHAKRATA	BADKOT	53091	10
M/s Genus	EDC_CHAKRATA	VIKASNAGAR		5708
M/s Genus	SRINAGAR_CIRCLE	EDD NAINIDANDA	18428	11334
M/s Genus	SRINAGAR_CIRCLE	KOTDWAR		
M/s Genus	SRINAGAR_CIRCLE	PAURI	8553	
M/s Genus	SRINAGAR_CIRCLE	SRINAGAR	8798	
M/s Genus	TEHRI_CIRCLE	TEHRI	26458	3748
M/s Genus	TEHRI_CIRCLE	UTTARKASHI	11441	799
M/s Adani	EDC_CHAMPAWAT_CIRCLE	CHAMPAWAT	14831	7679
M/s Adani	EDC_CHAMPAWAT_CIRCLE	EDD KHATIMA	51354	18289
M/s Adani	EDC_CHAMPAWAT_CIRCLE	SITARGANJ	54698	20215
M/s Adani	HALDWANI_CIRCLE	HALDWANI RURAL	83771	16100

AMISP	Circle	DIVISION	TOTAL METERS	
			Scope	Total Installed upto 31-Oct-25
M/s Adani	HALDWANI_CIRCLE	HALDWANI TOWN	48556	10600
M/s Adani	HALDWANI_CIRCLE	NAINITAL	19273	3250
M/s Adani	HALDWANI_CIRCLE	RAMNAGAR	36916	11254
M/s Adani	KASHIPUR_CIRCLE	Jaspur	39092	9805
M/s Adani	KASHIPUR_CIRCLE	BAJPUR	42062	6641
M/s Adani	KASHIPUR_CIRCLE	KASHIPUR	70594	26674
M/s Adani	PITHORAGARH_CIRCLE	DHARCHULA	19056	22
M/s Adani	PITHORAGARH_CIRCLE	PITHORAGARH		10475
M/s Adani	RANIKHET_CIRCLE	ALMORA	19056	15152
M/s Adani	RANIKHET_CIRCLE	BAGESHWAR	7252	6249
M/s Adani	RANIKHET_CIRCLE	BHIKIYASEN	6739	3531
M/s Adani	RANIKHET_CIRCLE	RANIKHET		
M/s Adani	RUDRAPUR_CIRCLE	EDD KICHHA	85513	14523
M/s Adani	RUDRAPUR_CIRCLE	RUDRAPUR	56542	8050
M/s Adani	RUDRAPUR_CIRCLE	RUDRAPUR-II		7616
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>1649684</b>	<b>346719</b>

**(b) PVTG works (PM-JANMAN) [ Rs. 0.59 Cr., PMA Nil]**

- (1) UPCL is required to furnish necessary approval for electrification of identified 669 households with excluded cost of Rs. 59.16 Lakh from PFC and details of grant amount which has been approved/disbursed to UPCL.

**Reply -**

It is to submit before the Hon'ble Commission that, Nodal Agency, M/s PFC Ltd., vide sanction letter no 02:10:RDSS:2021:II:UPCL/089352, dated 05.10.2024, has communicated the sanction of revised cost of PVTG works under PM-JANMAN to Rs. 59.15 Lakhs with corresponding GBS of Rs 53.24 Lakhs for the electrification of a total of 669 PVTG households in UPCL, Uttarakhand, along with other applicable charges. On dated 28 November, 2025 UPCL has received the Rs. 49.18 Lakhs excluding state share (i.e. 9 % SGST) from MoP, GoI.

- (2) UPCL is required to furnish list of total 669 consumers who have been electrified under 'PVTG works (PM-JANMAN) scheme' along with details of name of consumer, sanctioned load, connection no., division, sub-division and date of energization.

**Reply-**

The desired information is hereby annexed as Annexure-7.

- (3) With regard to the MoP letter dated 05.12.2023 enclosed at page 35 of the Petition, UPCL is required to provide the copy of report sent to Nodal Agency w.r.t. non-coverage of proposed households in earlier schemes such as Saubhagya Scheme and reason why they were not covered earlier.

**Reply-**

It is to submit before the Hon'ble Commission that addition of new households in villages/Hamlets/Towns/Cities is a continuous process and based upon the survey conducted by respective divisions the proposal of electrification of PVTG HHs (221 nos) has been submitted for approval. Later during execution, the beneficiary count kept on increasing with propagation of information of scheme by various means and finally 669 HHs were electrified under the scheme.

- (4) UPCL is required to furnish details of works executed for electrification of 669 households under the instant works.

**Reply-**

The desired information is given below:

Sl. No.	Works	Unit	Executed Quantity
1	LT Line	Km	10.42
2	Consumer Meters	Nos.	669

**(c) Electrification Work of Border-out-posts (BoP works) [Rs. 327.51 Cr., PMA Rs. 4.91 Cr. Total Rs. 332.42 Cr.]**

- (1) UPCL is required to furnish village-wise details expenditure totalling Rs. 327.51 Crore in the following format: -

Name of Village	No. of Consumers	Total no. of DTs in the village/total installed capacity of DTs	Details of incoming feeder to the Village vis. Name of feeder, Voltage rating/length of feeder/conductor type	Expenditure to be incurred in Rs.

**Reply-**

The desired information is hereby annexed as ...

- (2) UPCL is required to provide list of village-wise no. of consumers which were electrified under Saubhagya Yojna. Moreover, UPCL is required to provide why the villages proposed in the instant Petition to be electrified were not covered under Saubhagya Yojna.

**Reply-**

District wise details of no. of consumers which were electrified under Saubhagya Yojna is hereby annexed as Annexure-9. As the grid is not available in such higher reaches, the HHs of the villages were covered through stand-alone solar in those villages.

- (3) UPCL is required to furnish district-wise SLD (Uttarkashi, Chamoli & Pithoragarh) of the electrical network proposed under the instant Petition against Electrification Work of Border-out-posts (BoP works) clearly depicting the 33 kV line (conductor type & length), 33/11 kVS/s, 11 kV feeders (conductor type & length), 0.415 kV line (conductor type & length), DTs (nos. and rating) etc.

**Reply-**

The desired information is hereby annexed as...

- (4) UPCL is required to furnish voltage drop calculation for the proposed network starting from 33 kV upto the farthest end of LT network.

**Reply-**

- i) Voltage drop calculation for 33 kV network is hereby annexed as...
- ii) For 11 kV line in the proposed BoP works, to cater to proper voltage, provision of booster transformers in between the length of lines has been made. A total of 4 nos. booster transformers are provisioned in the BoP DPR.
- iii) There is a provision of 11/0.4 kV transformer at the border post itself, which will cater to the supply of that out-post & hence the voltage drop calculations at the LT level have not been done.

- (5) UPCL is required to furnish the general arrangement drawing of the 33/11 kV Substations proposed under the works of Border-outposts, clearly depicting the overall dimension of the Substation along with transformers, station transformers, control room building, transformer fire protection walls and space for 33 kV & 11 kV incomer and outgoing feeders.

**Reply-**

The general arrangement drawings will only be finalized once the land will be handed over to UPCL by ITBP/District administration, as the case may be. The general arrangement of GIS sub-station recently constructed in UPCL at Rishikesh is hereby annexed as ...

- (6) UPCL is required to furnish details of works proposed vis-a-vis its current status under the electrification works of BoP amounting to Rs. 327.51 Cr.

**Reply -**

Survey work is under process against all the packages of BoP & VVP works. GTP/ drawings submission and approval process is also simultaneously under way.

**(d) Electrification of HHs under Vibrant Village Program (VVP works) [Rs. 12.89 Cr. PMA Rs. 0.19 Cr. Total Rs. 13.08 Cr.]**

- (1) UPCL is required to furnish Village-wise SLD of total 11 Villages proposed under Vibrant Village Program under the instant Petition clearly depicting the 33 kV line (conductor type & length), 33/11 kV S/s, 11 kV feeders (conductor type & length), 0.415 kV line (conductor type & length), DTs (nos. and rating) and no. of consumers served under each Village.

**Reply-**

The desired information is hereby annexed as ...

- (2) UPCL is required to furnish voltage drop calculation for the proposed network starting from 33 kV upto the farthest end of LT network.

**Reply-**

- i) Voltage drop calculation for 33 kV network is same as submitted for BoP.

- ii) As the 11 kV line for electrification of VVPs will take a T-off from proposed BoP lines the booster transformers proposed in BoP lines will cater to proper voltage level in these lines also.
- iii) There is a provision of 11/0.4 kV transformer at each VVP the voltage drop calculations at LT level has not been done.

(3) UPCL is required to furnish details of works proposed vis-a-vis its current status under the VVP amounting to Rs. 12.89 Cr.

**Reply-**

Details of proposed works under VVP is annexed as... Survey work is under process against all the packages of BoP & VVP works. GTP/ drawings submission and approval process is also simultaneously under way.

(e) **Auxiliary items (LT Cable for DT Smart Metering) [Rs. 20.19 Cr., PMA Rs. 0.30 Cr. Total Rs. 20.49 Cr.]**

(1) UPCL in the instant proposed works has submitted that it would install cable for DTs where Smart Meters have been sanctioned under RDSS scheme. In this regard, UPCL is required to justify for proposing cables for 46,768 nos. DTs against the sanctioned 38016 nos. DTs (reference the Commission Order dated 19.10.2023).

**Reply -**

Initially, the sanctioned quantity of DT smart meters under RDSS was 38,016 nos. Subsequently, UPCL submitted a request to PFC/MoP for inclusion of additional 21196 nos. of DTR for 100% Smart metering of the DTRs. After inclusion of the additional sanctioned quantity, the total DT count for smart meter installation worked out to be 59,212 nos. Further, based on the survey conducted by the AMISP's/Divisions and the Smart meters already installed on the DT's till date, it has been established that cable is required for 46,768 nos. DT locations to install the Smart Meters.

(2) UPCL is required to confirm that all the factors affecting sizing of cables viz. inrush current tolerance, voltage variation, cable deration due to temperature etc. have been duly considered while determining the size of cables for the proposed DTs.

**Reply -** UPCL confirms that all factors affecting sizing of cable – including inrush current tolerance, voltage variation, cable deterioration due to temperature, and other relevant technical parameters have been duly considered while determining the size of cable for the proposed DTs.

(f) **DA-JGUA (Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan) [Rs. 0.90 Cr., PMA Nil]**

(1) UPCL is required to provide the village-wise details of consumers to be electrified in the following format:-

Name of Village	No Consumers	Totsssal no. of DTs in the village/total installed capacity of DTs	Details of incoming feeder to the Village vis. Name of feeder, Voltage rating/length of feeder/conductor type.	Expenditure to be incurred in Rs.

**Reply-**

*The desired information is hereby annexed as ...*

- (2) *Against the total 226 households, UPCL is required to submit details of 19 public institutions along with the proposed works that would be executed in the instant proposal.*

**Reply -** *The details of 19 public institutions is mentioned in Annexure III of Sanction letter no 02:10: RDSS:2021:I:UPCL/092119 dated 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025... Further, details of works under DAJGUA including public institutions is annexed as...*

- (3) *UPCL is required to furnish details of works proposed vis-a-vis its current status under DA-JGUA amounting to Rs. 0.90 Cr.*

**Reply -**

*It is to submit before the Hon'ble Commission that total 226 nos beneficiaries (207 nos Households and 19 public institutions) are proposed to be electrified under DA-JGUA scheme under RDSS. The work is being executed departmentally and as per Current progress as on 08.12.2025 total 137 nos beneficiaries (134 nos HHs and 3 nos public institutions) have been electrified. The target date for completion for DA-JGUA works is December-2025."*

6. Thereafter, the Commission vide its letter dated 05.01.2026 directed the Petitioner to make a power point presentation on 23.01.2026 which was subsequently rescheduled to 03.02.2026. On the scheduled date of presentation, UPCL apprised the Commission w.r.t the progress of smart metering works as on 23.01.2026 and also briefed about the various other works proposed in the instant Petition.
7. On examination of the UPCL's submission vide reference No. 2690/D(P)/UPCL/C-4 dated 18.12.2025, certain additional deficiencies/infirmities were identified and accordingly, the Commission vide its letter No. 1802 dated 05.03.2026 directed the Petitioner to furnish point-wise reply on the same latest by 18.03.2026. In response to the deficiencies/infirmities raised by the Commission, Petitioner vide its letter No. 1476/D(O)/UPCL/C-4 dated 20.03.2026 submitted its point-wise reply as follows:

"

1. *UPCL is required to submit documentary evidence w.r.t land acquisition for the proposed 33/11 kV substations at Badrinath, Malari, Harshil, and Gunji.*

**Reply:** *The land for construction of aforesaid 33/11 kV Sub-stations, Kopang, Gunji, Mana & Malari, has already been finalised and under various stages of acquisition. ITBP letter no. 694 (Annexure-1) & 692 (Annexure-2) dated 24.02.2026 along with Minutes-of-meeting chaired by Principal Secretary (Energy) related to this issue with*

IG, ITBP, respective District Magistrates UPCL officers (Annexure-3) for kind perusal of Hon'ble Commission.

2. No detailed estimate has been provided along with the Petition. Further, UPCL in its submission dated 18.12.2025 has submitted that a detailed survey w.r.t BoP & VVP works is under progress. In the absence of the detailed survey, the estimate submitted by UPCL appears to be purely based on assumptions. UPCL is required to justify why the said proposal should be considered, when it is likely to undergo substantial change upon completion of the detailed survey.

**Reply:** The estimates for BoP and VVP works have not been prepared on assumptions, but are based on the site/route survey conducted by the team of UPCL's Secondary Works Divisions in coordination with respective Distribution Divisions and ITBP representatives, RDSS framework and were finalised after vetting of the same by technical committee of Ministry of Power (MoP) & Nodal Agency, M/s Power finance Corporation Limited (PFC). Such methodology is consistent with standard practices followed by all DISCOMs at the DPR stage before the detailed survey.

Further, the proposed works are to be executed on a turnkey basis (Design-Build Basis), wherein the detailed survey, route alignment, engineering design and optimisation are integral responsibilities of the contractor post-award. The final quantities and micro-level design are refined during the execution stage, not at the DPR approval stage. Therefore, DPR-level estimates are prepared on normative parameters based upon survey, while a detailed survey is embedded within contract execution. Historically also for the central sector DPRs were prepared on the same basis.

Project cost is evaluated and approved based on normative benchmarks, not item-wise final surveyed quantities. The cost submitted by UPCL has already been vetted/recommended by the RDSS Monitoring Committee of MoP/Nodal Agency, ensuring reasonableness and uniformity. The cost committee of MoP/PFC, while discussing the cost estimates, compared such proposals for various states viz. HP, Sikkim, J&K, AP etc., for the same work.

It is pertinent to mention that the Chief General Manager, M/s PFC, along with his teams, also visited the various valleys on the direction of MoP, where these works have been proposed.

3. UPCL is required to provide the 11 kV voltage profile at the existing node from where the network would be extended for the BOPs.

**Reply:** The names of the proposed 33/11 kV Sub-stations in BoPs, the existing Sub-stations in the area and 11kV Voltage profile at that Sub-station (source) on 11.02.2026 at 18:50 hrs, are given below as desired:

- i) 33/11 kV Harshil/Kopang-----33/11 kV Bhatwari----- (10.9 kV)
- ii) 33/11 kV Mana-----33/11 kV Pandukeshwar----(10.1 kV)
- iii) 33/11 kV Malari-----33/11 kV Marwadi----- (10.9 kV)
- iv) 33/11 kV Gunji-----33/11 kV Tawaghat----- (10.6 kV)

4. UPCL is required to submit the specifications of the proposed voltage booster transformer for the BOPs area, along with the exact location where it would be installed.

**Reply:** The booster transformer proposed in the DPR is intended to improve voltage regulation in long radial feeders supplying high altitude BoP locations. The indicative technical specifications are as follows:

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Specification</b>
Type	Series Voltage Booster Transformer
System Voltage	11kV
Capacity	Typically 500 kVA – 1 MVA depending on feeder load
Voltage Injection	±10% voltage regulation
Cooling	ONAN
Protection	Overcurrent, earth fault and surge protection
Installation	Pole mounted / plinth mounted

It is to submit that the detailed specifications will be shared with Hon'ble Commission once the same will be submitted by the successful bidder and approved by UPCL. The exact location of booster transformers is not available at present & will be finalized during execution of work based on:

- feeder length
- load distribution
- voltage drop analysis

In principle, booster transformers will be installed approximately midway along long feeders where voltage drop exceeds permissible limits.

5. The 123rd Board of Directors meeting held on 01.05.2025 had already approved the investment for the 'Construction of a new 33 kV line from the existing 33/11 kV Substation at Pandukeshwar to the proposed 33/11 kV Substation at Shri Badrinathji Dham, and construction of a new 33/11 kV Indoor GIS Substation at Shri Badrinathji Dham along with associated works'. Further, the Commission, vide its Order dated 26.09.2025, had already accorded approval for the 33/11 kV Substation at Shri Badrinathji Dham and associated 33kV & 11 kV lines. However, UPCL has again sought approval for the 33/11 kV Substation in close vicinity of Shri Badrinathji Dham under the instant Petition. In view of the above, UPCL is required to clearly confirm whether the present proposal involves any duplication of approval or investment, and if not, explain how the current proposal is distinct from the earlier approved works.

**Reply:** It is humbly submitted that the 33/11 kV Sub-station in question is now proposed at Mana, separate construction of which is emphasised by IG, ITBP in the meeting of 02.12.2025, for the Minutes-of-meeting is annexed as Annexure-3. The submission, as stated here, is clearly mentioned in Para-2 of the said Minutes-of-meeting.

6. *Since the proposed works fall under harsh geographical & climatic conditions with majority of snowbound areas, UPCL is required to confirm regarding the following:*
- (a) *Planning, site selection & designing especially for the works proposed under BoP & VVP under instant Petition, have been considered covering aspects viz. extreme sub-zero temperatures, high altitudes, deration factors, snow loadings etc. Confirm that the network being proposed by them would sustain all the technical and safety compliances necessary for the works proposed under the instant Petition as per CEA regulations.*

**Reply:** *Clause-7 of Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Part -2: Employer's Requirements of the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) at Clause-7.1 states that, "All the works covered under the scope of the tender shall be done in accordance with the norms defined by the Employer, unless the same is not specifically defined in the specification or with the provisions of Indian Electricity Rules/Acts/Other Government Rules/Regulations as prevalent at the time of execution of the job/work." (Annexure-4)*

*Requirements of the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) at Annexure-B: General Technical Instructions states: (Annexure-5)*

*Following CEA regulations shall be applicable during execution of work:*

- a. *Construction Regulation – Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for construction of electrical plants and electric lines) Regulation, 2010 (as amended time to time)*
- b. *Safety Regulation for construction and O&M - Central Electricity Authority (Safety requirements for construction, Operation and Maintenance of electrical plants and electric lines) Regulation, 2011 (as amended time to time)*
- c. *Connectivity Regulation – Technical Standard for connectivity to the grid (Amendment) Regulation 2013; Technical Standards for connectivity of the Distributed Generation resources, 2013; Central Electricity Authority (Grid Standard) Regulation, 2010 (as amended time to time)*
- d. *Metering Regulations – Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of meters) Regulations, 2006; Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of meters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2010 and 2015 (as amended time to time)*
- e. *Central Electricity Authority (Measures relating to safety and Electric supply regulations), 2010 and amendment regulation 2015 (as amended time to time)*

*It is humbly submitted that the aforesaid & other such clauses are part of SBD and the same is also part of the agreement, which is technically & legally binding on the parties.*

(b) Further, confirm that the span length and other technical parameters for the 33 kV, 11 kV and 0.4 kV systems adhere to as per Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, 2022, as amended from time to time.

**Reply:** Same as 6(a) above.

(c) How the maintenance of the long BoP lines (especially during breakdown conditions) would be ensured. Confirm whether any specialised agency has been envisaged for the upkeep of the infrastructure proposed for BoPs and VVP located in high altitudes and also confirm regarding the financial impact to Distribution Licensee vis-à-vis the anticipated benefits envisaged.

**Reply:** At this instant, maintenance of this infrastructure is envisaged through its concerned Distribution Divisions, supported by local field staff. Once put in operation, based on the requirements as per experiences drawn, wherever necessary, specialised contractors/maintenance agencies may be engaged for works in high altitude areas.

7. UPCL is required to confirm whether the charges for the forest and wildlife clearance are included in the amount of Rs. 327.51 Cr. or not. Further, confirm regarding status of the Forest clearances/ Wildlife clearances, and Geological approvals for the BoPs & VVP works.

**Reply:** It is submitted that Para-2 of the sanction letter of BoP works (Annexure-6) clearly indicates that the sanctioned cost is approved along with applicable charges. Further, Clause-4 of the RDSS guidelines (Annexure-7) stipulates, "The eligible project cost shall include Central taxes and all fees like forest clearance, highway and railway crossing fee etc. The project cost shall however not include the cost of land, cost of buildings other than sub stations and anti-theft police stations, service lines to new consumers, compensation towards ROW (except forest clearance, highway and railway crossing fee), office equipment & fixtures, spares (other than mandatory spares prescribed by manufacturer), T&P, road cutting charges, vehicles and salaries and establishment expenditure. Further, the project cost shall be reduced to the extent of any Liquidated Damages actually levied, but the encashment of performance security or bid security (EMD) shall not reduce the project cost." Therefore, the cost involved in forest clearance, highway and railway crossing fee will be disbursed to UPCL, which is over & above the sanctioned cost.

Further, as confirmed by the respective executing divisions, it is to inform that no forest case has been prepared by either of the division till date.

8. With regard to the extract provided at Chapter 4 Project Implementation 4.1 "... the project cost approved by the monitoring Committee or actual cost incurred for all the three components of the scheme, whichever is less, shall be the eligible cost for determining the grant under the scheme. Any cost overrun after approval of the project (by Monitoring Committee) due to any reason whatsoever shall not be eligible for any grant and shall be borne by the DISCOM/respective State Government. The eligible project cost shall include Central taxes and all fees like forest clearance,

highway and railway crossing fee etc. The project cost shall however not include the cost of land, cost of buildings other than sub stations and anti-theft police stations, service lines to new consumers, compensation towards ROW (except forest clearance, highway and railway crossing fee), office equipment & fixtures, spares (other than mandatory spares prescribed by manufacturer), T&P, road cutting charges, vehicles and salaries and establishment expenditure. Further, the project cost shall be reduced to the extent of any Liquidated Damages actually levied, but the encashment of performance security or bid security (EMD) shall not reduce the project cost". In this regard, UPCL should cautiously evaluate the aforesaid implications as any wrong estimation/casual approach in this context would result in severe dent on its commercial and financial viability. Therefore, UPCL is required to confirm that: -

- (a) How much percentage variation has been approved by the BoD for the works proposed under BoP and VVP.

**Reply:** No variation has been approved by the BoD for the works proposed under BoP and VVP. For centrally sponsored projects, it is always desired that the work may be completed within the sanctioned project cost. Any cost overrun, though avoided to the best possible extent, if any, which is unavoidable, will be suitably represented before MoP/PFC for sanction. It is also pertinent to mention that clause 4.1 of RDSS also states that, "Any cost overrun after approval of the project (by Monitoring Committee) due to any reason whatsoever shall not be eligible for any grant and shall be borne by the DISCOM/respective State Government."

- (b) How the financing for the balance amount i.e. cost not specifically included in the project cost as discussed above would be met and what is the estimated amount for such exclusions. Further, who would bear the impact of increase in project cost.

**Reply:** For a turn-key contract, any variation post detailed survey is normally governed within the approved cost framework, and cost overrun is not passed to consumers. If any situation of cost overrun may arise, the same will be put up for approval, with valid justifications, before the appropriate department.

9. UPCL has proposed works amounting to approx. Rs. 327.00 Crore for 43 Boarder out Posts i.e. on an average Rs. 7.60 Crore have been proposed per BoP. Considering the tough geographical terrain and issues associated with maintenance of assets, UPCL is required to clarify why alternate source of energy/systems cannot be established in such areas for catering the load demands through local generation and creation of micro grid.

**Reply:** There is a specific direction of extension of the electricity distribution infrastructure had been received from MoP in this regard, hence alternate sources were not thought of in the instant case. Annexure-12 of the original petition i.e. Letter No. F.No.06/03/2021-UR&SI-II-Part(1)(E-263831) dated 13.06.2023 clearly states this intention of MoP.

## Commission's Observations, Views & Directions: -

8. Based on the examination and analysis of the proposal, subsequent submissions & power point presentation made by the Petitioner before the Commission, the observations, views & directions of the Commission are as follows:

(1) The Petitioner in its instant proposal has sought approval for execution of works amounting to **Rs. 422.59 Cr.** covered under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) project of Government of India. The work-wise details and funding are detailed hereunder: -

Sl. No.	Item Description	Sanctioned Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Government Budgetary Support (GBS) against Sanctioned Cost in %age	UPCL GBS Amount (Rs. Cr.)	10% State Share/ counterpart Fund (Rs. Cr.)
1	<b>Additional Smart Meters Works</b> (PFC Approval Letter No. 088427 dt. 05.08.24)	54.8	22.50%#	12.32	0
a	PMA Charges	0.31	90%*	0.28	0.03
2	<b>PVTG Works</b> (PFC Approval Letter No. 089352 dt. 05.10.24)	0.59	90%*	0.53	0.06
3	<b>BOP Charges</b> (PFC Approval Letter No. 092540 dt. 23.04.25)	327.51	90%*	294.76	32.75
a	PMA Charges	4.91	90%*	4.42	0.49
4	<b>VVP Charges</b> (PFC Approval Letter No. 086547 dt. 14.03.24)	12.89	90%*	11.6	1.29
a	PMA Charges	0.19	90%*	0.17	0.02
5	<b>Auxiliary Item of Smart Meter works</b> (PFC Approval Letter No. 091039 dt. 14.01.25)	20.19	90%*	18.17	2.02
a	PMA Charges	0.3	90%*	0.27	0.03
6	<b>DAJGUA Works</b> (PFC Approval Letter No.092119 dt. 26.03.25)	0.9	90%*	0.81	0.09
<b>Total</b>		<b>422.59</b>		<b>343.33</b>	<b>36.78</b>

#Uttarakhand is categorized as a special category state and is eligible for a grant of 22.5% of the approved metering costs (capped at Rs. 1350 per meter).

\*All special category states are eligible for grant of 90% of the approved costs for distribution infrastructure works & PMA.

(2) The Petitioner provided a certified true copy of the resolution passed in 116th BOD meeting held on 15.02.2024 wherein, at item no. 116.11, it is mentioned that: -

*“Item no. 116.11: Approval of DPRs for Electrification of ITBP Border-outposts (BOPs), Electrification of villages under Vibrant Village Programme (VVP), Electrification of locations identified for 4G saturation and Electrification of PVTG Households under PM JANMAN under centrally sponsored, Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in UPCL.*

*“RESOLVED THAT the approval of the Board be and us hereby accorded to DPRs of Electrification of ITBP Border-out-posts (BoPs), Electrification of Villages under Vibrant Village Programme (VVP), Electrification of locations identified for 4G saturation and Electrification of PVTG Households under PM JANMAN under centrally sponsored Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in UPCL”.*

***[Emphasis Added]***

In this regard, the Commission in its deficiency letter dated 10.11.25 had observed that ‘the aforesaid BoD approval neither specify the total amount of works (inclusive or exclusive of taxes and duties) for which the BoD approval has been accorded nor any detail w.r.t. the variation allowed has been mentioned’. In this context, the Petitioner in its submission dated 18.12.2025 provided the copy of agenda of Board meeting number 116 which also did not clearly reflect the details of the works and cost against the same.

The Commission has observed that the approvals for the proposed works were received from M/s PFC at various stages and the Petitioner was supposed to take approval from the BoD on the specific amounts for which the approval was accorded by M/s PFC. In this regard, the Commission is of the view that the BoD approval for the investment approval proposal should clearly describe the specific works for which the investment approval has been sought along with the estimated amount against such works. However, the Petitioner in the instant matter has not furnished the BoD approval clearly specifying the proposed works along with the requisite details including estimated cost against each works. This act of distribution licensee depicts its callous approach, therefore, **the Commission directs the distribution licensee not to repeat such mistakes in future investment proposals else the same may attract action against the distribution licensee under the provisions of the Act/Regulations.**

- (3) With regard to the relief sought, the Petitioner in its Petition has submitted that “... *the sunset clause of RDSS scheme as per latest available guidelines is 31.03.2026 hence after due approvals UPCL has gone ahead with requisite tendering and execution of work.*’ In this regard, the Commission has observed that the MoP vide its notification dated 16.07.2025 had revised the sunset date as 31.03.2028 for the works pertaining to Smart Metering and Loss reduction works.

Further, from the Petitioner’s submission in the Petition and subsequently during presentation, the Commission has observed that the Petitioner has already

initiated the execution of the works. The status and individual targets for the proposed works are mentioned below: -

Sl. No.	Description	Status	Completion Target
1	Increase in scope of Smart metering works	27% has been completed as on 23.01.2026	The execution period is 27 months as per contract agreement (i.e. completion period is up to June 2026) and thereafter, O&M period 93 months (i.e. up to March 2034).
2	Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group Works under PM-JANMAN PVTG works-	All 669 households electrified	Already completed in August 2024.
3	Border out post (BoP) works	Work awarded	As per notification of award, target date of completion is 31st March 2027.
4	Vibrant Village Program (VVP)	Work awarded	As per notification of award, target date of completion is 31st March 2027.
5	Auxiliary Item- (LT Cables for DT smart metering)	Linked with Smart Metering works	The work of installation of auxiliary cable is associated with Smart Metering of proposed distribution transformers which is likely to be completed by Mar-26.
6	DAJGUA	137 out of 226 beneficiaries electrified as on 08.12.2025.	December 2025.

- (4) With regard to the Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) for the proposed works, the Commission has observed that the Petitioner had not furnished the same and in response to the specific query, the Petitioner in its submission dated 18.12.2025 has submitted that: -

*“...It is humbly submitted that, (a) Cost-benefit analysis for Smart Metering has already been commented on, in the earlier petition submitted, wherein the investment approval has already been provided by the Hon’ble Commission vide order dated, 19 October, 2023. (b) The BoP/VVP and works are important from a strategic point of view and PVTG/DAJGUA works are last mile household electrification (social sector work as per requirement of Ministry of Tribal Affairs), therefore the cost-benefit analysis has neither been calculated nor been asked by MoP during sanctioning of the same. (c) An auxiliary cable for DT metering is essentially required DT smart metering, envisaged for better energy accounting, which is one of the mandates of Smart metering project.”*

With regard to CBA for ‘Increase in scope of Smart metering works’ and ‘Auxiliary Item- (LT Cables for DT smart metering)’, the Commission has observed that earlier in the matter of Petition No. 35 of 2023, the Petitioner had made following submission before the Commission which was noted in Order dated 19.10.2023: -

*“...Since the implementation of the metering scheme is proposed through PPP on TOTEX mode, the DISCOM will not have to pay upfront for all the capital*

expenditure". Hence, the **cost benefit analysis for smart metering cannot be calculated upfront**. The same would be measured post completion of the smart metering program and would be submitted to the Hon'ble Commission." [Emphasis added]

With regard to CBA for 'Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group Works under PM-JANMAN PVTG works', VVP' and 'DAJGUA', the Commission has observed that the said works are for social benefit causes and therefore, it would not be prudent to conduct CBA for the same.

With regard to CBA for 'BoPs works', the Commission has observed that the said works are important from the strategic point of view and therefore, it would not be prudent to conduct CBA for the same.

Therefore, the Commission has observed that the Petitioner has submitted reasons such as strategic importance, social causes and the difficulty in upfront computation of CBA for not furnishing the CBA for BoPs works, PVTG, VVP, DAJGUA, increase in scope of smart meters and Aux. items (LT cables for DT smart metering) along with the instant Petition.

(5) The work-wise observations & views of the Commission are mentioned below:

**(A) Increase in Scope of Smart Metering:**

(1) The Commission has observed that the Petitioner in its instant Petition has submitted that earlier, the Commission vide its Order dated 19.10.2023 had approved Smart Metering works amounting to **Rs. 1,045.04 Crore**. Later, PFC/MOP emphasized complete energy accounting by covering all DTs & feeder meters. Accordingly, the Petitioner decided to include the same alongwith additional consumer meters. The breakup of consumer meters, DTs meters & feeder meters sanctioned, additional meters and revised sanctioned are detailed below: -

Sr. No.	Particulars	Sanctioned			Additional Meters			Revised Sanction		
		Total Qty (nos.)	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	GBS (Rs. Cr.)	Total Qty (nos.)	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	GBS (Rs. Cr.)	Total Qty (nos.)	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	GBS (Rs. Cr.)
1	Consumer Metering	15,84,205	950.52	213.87	3,665	2.2	0.50	15,87,870	952.72	214.36
2	DT Metering	38,016	87.44	19.67	21,196	48.75	10.97	59,212	136.19	30.64
3	Feeder Metering	1,686	7.08	1.59	916	3.85	0.87	2,602	10.93	2.46
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16,23,907</b>	<b>1,045.04</b>	<b>235.13</b>	<b>25,777</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>12.33</b>	<b>16,49,684</b>	<b>1,099.84</b>	<b>247.46</b>

The aforesaid additional meters were sanctioned by RDSS Monitoring Committee in its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 26.07.2024 with an estimated cost of Rs. 54.80 Cr. and corresponding GBS of Rs. 12.32 Cr. and thereafter, M/s PFC vide its letter dated 05.08.2024 gave approval for the same. Accordingly, the total revised cost of the RDSS Smart Metering project increased to Rs. 1099.84 Cr. with a revised sanction for 16,49,684 consumers.

The Commission has observed that the Petitioner has sought approval against 25,777 additional meters comprising 3,665 consumer meters, 21,196 DT meters and 916 feeder meters in the instant Petition.

- (2) With regard to additional smart meters, the Petitioner during the presentation furnished status of smart metering (as on 23.01.2026) is mentioned below: -

**Smart meter installation work progress under RDSS-UPCL**

Meter Type	Total scope (As per 1045.04 Cr.) (Qty)	Additional scope (As per 54.80 Cr.) (Qty)	Total Revised Scope (As per 1099.84 Cr.) (Qty)	Total Cumulative progress as on 23.01.2026 (Qty)	% Progress
Consumer Metering	15,84,205	3,665	15,87,870	4,35,070	27.4%
DT Metering	38,016	21,196	59,212	7,982	13.5%
Feeder Metering	1,686	916	2,602	2,492	95.8%
TOTAL	16,23,907	25,777	16,49,684	4,45,444	27.0%

- (3) With regard to the increase in scope of smart meters, the Petitioner has submitted that: -

“ ...

*The sanctioned quantity of smart meters was derived based on the actual availability of DTs and Feeders as per UPCL system data of October 2022, which reflected 59,212 nos. of DTs (excluding Agricultural DTs and 16 kVA DTs) and 2,602 nos. of Feeders. The total quantity was sanctioned after incorporation of the additional requirement assessed at that stage.*

*As of now, UPCL has set the target to complete the installation of smart meters against the sanctioned quantity in a time-bound manner. Additionally, UPCL has requested PFC/MoP to accord approval for additional smart meter quantity based on the latest availability of DTs and Feeders and in line with current field data. The DTs and Feeders, which may increase in upcoming years, have also been taken into consideration.*

*Accordingly, after installation of the sanctioned quantity and subsequent installation of the additional quantity being sought from PFC/MoP, 100% DT*

*metering and 100% Feeder metering shall be ensured across the State of Uttarakhand."*

In this context, the Commission is of the view that the basic aim of the MoP in encouraging the installation of smart meters at DT and feeder level is to provide an efficient and robust system for energy accounting at each 11 kV feeder level. Hence, the proposed work would help in strengthening the energy accounting system of the distribution licensee. However, the Commission emphasizes that the number of consumers, feeders & distribution transformers generally have an increasing trend. Therefore, installation of meters at DT & feeder level is not a onetime exercise and requires consistent efforts by the distribution licensee not only to install meters at upcoming DT/feeder level but also to ensure upkeep of installed meters at DT/feeder levels so that regular data can be fetched from the remote locations.

The Petitioner should ensure to cover cent percent smart metering of DTs on each 11 kV feeder at all times to come. Any laxity on the part of distribution licensee in installation or upkeep of smart meters at DT level/Feeder level/consumer level would make the entire exercise futile and also affect the financial viability & sustainability of the discom.

- (4) The Commission has observed that the instant Petition filed by Petitioner to increase the scope of Smart Metering under RDSS would be beneficial for the State. Smart meters would help with correct and automatic meter reading, real-time monitoring of electricity use, and better control of the power system, especially in remote and hilly areas. Technically, this project would help in identifying power losses, detecting faults quickly, improving supply reliability and commercially, it would reduce losses, improve billing & collection efficiency and strengthen the financial position of the distribution company. Consumers would be benefited from accurate bills and improved services. The Smart Metering work in the State of Uttarakhand is being carried out by the companies namely M/s Adani Energy Solution Ltd and M/s Garhwal Smart Metering Pvt Ltd.
- (5) With regard to the installation of the Smart Meters, the Commission has observed that CT & PT are an integral part of the metering system and

therefore its accuracy should be commensurable to that of Smart Meters. Further, the Commission cautions the Petitioner to ensure that the instrument transformers are appropriately designed/selected to take care of the issues of accuracy & burden limits.

- (6) The Commission opines that the centrally funded schemes are like double-edged sword and if the same are not implemented as per schedule, the same may result in conversion of grant into loan. **Thus, the Commission directs the Petitioner to ensure that the timelines alongwith all technical guidelines and best practices as per RDSS project for Smart Metering works should be complied and timeline should not exceed the sunset date as prescribed in the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Power (MoP), Government of India.**

**(B) Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) Works under PM-JANMAN**

- (1) The Commission has observed that earlier Ministry of Power (MoP) had decided that all identified beneficiary households under **PM-JANMAN** (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) for PVTG development mission for On-Grid electricity connection shall be eligible for funding under RDSS as per the scheme guidelines. Accordingly, MoP vide its notification dated 05.12.2023 directed the nodal agency namely M/s PFC to coordinate with respective State/Discoms to validate such households. Subsequently, M/s PFC vide its notification dated 08.12.2023 directed States to conduct actual field surveys to validate the electrification status of identified PVTG households and prepare cost estimates for the same.

Thereafter, the Distribution licensee decided to take up electrifications of such HHs through internal funds to achieve the target within the stipulated timeline (i.e. 15.01.2024). Further, the Petitioner submitted its proposal to M/s PFC for MoP approval. Earlier, a proposal for 221 PVTG HHs was sent to M/s PFC which was later revised to 669 PVTG HHs. The approval for the revised proposal was received from M/s PFC on 05.10.2024 for electrification of 669 PVTG HHs including Buxa & Raji tribes in Uttarakhand.

- (2) The Commission has observed that the Petitioner has successfully completed the electrification of 669 PVTG households in the State of Uttarakhand with

as executed cost of Rs. 59.16 lakhs. The district-wise details of PVTG HHs are detailed below: -

Sl. No.	Name of District	(As per sanctioned in Special MCM-I dated 29.12.2023) To be electrified through On Grid		Electrified PVTG HHs (approved in 42nd MCM dated 28.09.2024)	
		PVTG HHs in Nos	Approved project cost Rs in Lakhs	Executed HHs	Executed cost Rs in Lakhs
1	Dehradun	125	22.86	462	40.35
2	Haridwar	57	10.42	119	5.52
3	Nainital	31	5.67	81	4.1
4	Pithoragarh	1	0.18	0	0
5	Udhamsingh Nagar	7	1.28	7	9.19
<b>Total</b>		<b>221</b>	<b>40.42</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>59.16</b>

- (3) With regard to the electrification of PVTG HHs, the Commission is of the view that this scheme provides electricity to remote Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) HHs which would certainly help in their social upliftment including improving education, healthcare & livelihoods besides overall development of the area in the vicinity of such HHs.

**(C) Electrification of Border-Out-Posts (BoP):**

- (1) The Commission has observed that earlier MoP,GoI had decided to extend electricity distribution infrastructure to specific location of Uttarakhand and accordingly vide its notification dated 13.06.2023 sought cost estimates for extension of electricity Distribution infrastructure for specific locations in Uttarakhand if not covered under earlier approved Distribution infrastructure projects sanctioned under RDSS. Further, the Petitioner placed DPR amounting to Rs. 384.87 Cr. (including forest charge and PMA charges) to the cost committee of MoP on 25.09.2023 for approval. Thereafter, the project cost was revised several times and monitoring committee in its 25<sup>th</sup> meeting 16.11.2023 accorded approval for the BoP DPR amounting to Rs. 232.08 Cr. plus applicable charges as per scheme guidelines excluding PMA, Forest clearance and Land development charges. Subsequently, the tender for Border Out Posts works was floated and the discovered prices was 42.64% higher than the estimated DPR cost. The Petitioner subsequently proposed M/s PFC/MoP to allow revised DPR cost amounting to **Rs. 327.50 Cr.** citing the reasons of high altitude and difficult terrain. The aforesaid revised project cost of Rs. 327.50 Cr. (with revised GoI grant of Rs. 294.76 Cr.) was approved by M/s PFC through its letter dated 23.04.2025.

- (2) The cost breakup of the works proposed under Border Out Posts under RDSS are detailed hereunder: -

Sl. No.	District	Valley	Name of Border Outposts	Total No. of Border out Posts	Awarded Cost (Rs. Lacs)
1	Uttarkashi	Uttarkashi	Nelong, Naga Camp, Jadung, Sonam, PDA, Mendi, Sumla, Point 5135, Rongmanch God, Neelapani	10	7243.46
		<b>sub-total Uttarkashi</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>7243.46</b>
2	Chamoli	Mana	Mana, Ghastoli, Ratakona, Tarai/ Jagrau	4	4739.64
		Niti	Sumna, Laptha, Topidunga, Chhojan, Sanchutala, Rimkhim(Lower), Def Ridge (Upper Rimkhim), Takulisain, Goting, Geldung, Kinglung Mandi, Ganesh Post	12	8724.04
		<b>sub-total Chamoli</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>13463.69</b>
3	Pithoragrah	Vyas	Dharchula (Gothi), Gunji, Garbyang, Chhiyalekh, Kuti, Jaulikong, Wilsha, Kalapani, Navidhang	9	8035.34
		Darma	Tidang/Dharar, Bedang, Dawe	3	1886.67
		Johar	Bugdiyar, Railakot, Milam, Dung, Balati Farms	5	2121.51
		<b>sub-total Pithoragarh</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>12043.52</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>43</b>	<b>32750.65</b>

- (3) The valley-wise observations and views of the Commission are detailed hereunder: -

**(i) BoP for District Uttarkashi (Harshil)**

- (1) The Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed the construction of a new 33/11 kV, 2x3.15 MVA substation at Harshil to supply power to 10 nos. Border Out Posts (BoPs) located in Uttarkashi Valley. As per the Single Line Diagram, the total transformation capacity for the said 10 nos. BoPs is 1038 kVA which would serve areas namely Nilong, Naga camp, Neelapani, Jadung, Sonam, PDA, Mendi, Sumla, Point 5135 and Rongmanch God. At present, the areas in vicinity namely Gangotri Dham (located about 72 km away), Bhairav Ghati (located about 66 kms away) & Harshil are served by 11 kV network emanating from Bhatwari 33/11 kV substation. The details of works proposed for Border outposts in Uttarkashi Valley are detailed hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Work Description	Unit	Total Scope
1	33/11 kV New S/s 2x3.15 MVA (Location: - Harsil)	Nos.	1
2	11 KV Voltage Booster Transformer	Nos.	2
3	HT Line 33 kV (Km) ACSR Dog	cKm	37
4	HT Cable 33 KV (Km) 3*300 Sq MM 33 KV (Double ckt)	cKm	1
5	HT Line 11 kV (Km) ACSR Rabbit	cKm	72
6	HT Line 11 kV (Km) 3*120 Sq MM 11 KV (single ckt)	cKm	25
7	LT Line (3ph) Km AB Cable 3x95+1*70+1*16	cKm	19
8	DTR	Nos.	10
9	Cumulative transformation capacity	kVA	1038
10	Total No. of BoPs to be served	Nos.	10
11	Total Expenditure	Rs. Cr.	72.43

- (2) The Commission has observed that the network proposed by the Petitioner would be serving 10 Nos. Border outposts which are situated at high altitude with tough terrain.
- (3) The Commission has observed that currently the 11 kV network in the Uttarkashi valley extends upto Bhairav Ghati and further upto Gangotri. The proposed network would initiate from Harshil/Dharali to Bhairav Ghati and extends further to areas of Nilong, Naga camp, Sonam and other areas.
- (4) With regard to the long 11 kV distribution network proposed for 10 Nos. BoPs in Uttarkashi valley, the Commission has observed that the BoP points namely Mendi, Rongmanch God and PDA would be worst affected due to long 11 kV radial distribution network. Further, the Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed installation of 02 nos. voltage booster transformer for the Uttarkashi Valley. The location for installing the voltage booster transformers has not been specified in Detailed Project Report (DPR).
- (5) With regard to land acquisition for the 2x3.15 MVA substation proposed at Harsil, the Petitioner in its email dated 09.02.2026 has submitted that the land for the proposed S/s has been selected near Dharali village.

(ii) **BoP for District Chamoli (Mana Valley)**

- (1) The Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed the construction of a new 33/11 kV, 2x5 MVA substation at Shri Badrinathji Dham (located at Mana valley) to supply power to 4 nos. Border Outposts (BoPs) located in Mana Valley. As per the Single Line Diagram, the total transformation capacity for the said 4 nos. BoPs is 400 kVA which would serve areas namely Mana, Ghastoli, Ratakona and Tarai/Jagrau. At present, the Shri Badrinathji Dham area is served by 11 kV network emanating from the existing Pandukeshwar 33/11 kV substation. The details of the works proposed for Border out Posts in Mana Valley are detailed hereunder: -

Sl. No.	Work Description	Unit	Total Scope
1	33/11 kV New S/s 2x5 MVA (Location: - Badrinathji)	Nos.	1
2	11 kV Voltage Booster Transformer	Nos.	-
3	HT Line 33 kV (Km) ACSR Dog	cKm	20
4	HT Cable 33 kV (Km) 3*300 Sq MM 33 KV (Double ckt)	cKm	4
5	HT Line 11 kV (Km) ACSR Rabbit	cKm	39
6	HT Line 11 kV (Km) 3*120 Sq MM 11 KV (single ckt)	cKm	3
7	LT Line (3ph) Km AB Cable 3x95+1*70+1*16	cKm	3
8	DTR	Nos.	4
9	Cumulative transformation capacity	kVA	400
10	Total No. of BoPs to be served	Nos.	4
11	Total Expenditure	Rs. Cr.	47.39

- (2) The Commission has observed that the network proposed by the Petitioner would be serving 4 Nos. Border outposts which are situated at high altitude with tough terrain.
- (3) The Commission has observed that currently the 11 kV network in the Mana valley extends upto Shri Badrinathji Dham which is soon expected to be served through the upcoming 33/11 kV S/s at Shri Badrinathji Dham. The proposed 11 kV network would be initiated from proposed 33/11 kV S/s at Shri Badrinathji Dham upto Mana and extends further upto to tail end i.e. Tarai/Jagrau.

- (4) With regard to land acquisition for the 2x5 MVA substation proposed at Badrinathji, the Petitioner in its email dated 09.02.2026 has submitted that they are under discussion for land acquisition with concerned authorities.
- (5) With regard to the 2x5 MVA S/s at Shri Badrinathji Dham proposed in the instant Petition, the Commission has observed that earlier the Commission vide its Order dated 26.09.2025 had accorded approval for 2x5 MVA, 33/11 kV S/s and associated network at Shri Badrinathji Dham with revised project cost as Rs 33.62 Crore. In response to the specific query on the duplicity of the works, the Petitioner in its response submitted that no duplicity of works exists in the instant Petition.

Further, the Commission has observed that the Petitioner in its submission dated 20.03.2026 has made reference of Minutes of meeting held on 02.12.2025 between GoU & ITBP wherein, it is mentioned that:

*“...उपरोक्त विषय में आईटीबीपी के अधिकारियों द्वारा अवगत कराया गया कि भविष्य में माणा वैली में आईटीबीपी की कई नई सीमा चौकियां प्रस्तावित हैं। आईटीबीपी के अधिकारियों द्वारा अवगत कराया गया कि भविष्य की आवश्यकताओं के दृष्टिगत बिजलीघर का निर्माण माणा घाटी एवं मलारी सीमा चौकी में किया जाना अनिवार्य है। ...” [Emphasis added]*

Considering that a number of Border Out Posts are expected to come up in near future and ITBP has shown keen interest for construction of separate substation at Mana for catering the future load requirements. **Therefore, the Commission finds it prudent to consider the instant proposal for construction of new 33/11 kV 2x5 MVA S/s at Mana Valley.**

**(iii) BoP for District Chamoli (Niti Valley)**

- (1) The Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed the construction of a new 33/11 kV, 2x3.15MVA substation at Malari to supply power to 12 nos. Border Outposts (BoPs) located in Niti Valley. As per the Single Line Diagram, the total transformation capacity for

the said 12 nos. BoPs is 825 kVA which would serve areas namely Sumna, Lapthal, Topi dunga, Sanchutala, Rimkhim(lower), Def Ridge (upper Rimkhim), Takulisain, Goting, Geldung, Kingling, Mandi and Ganesh Post. At present, the area is served by the existing Joshimath 33/11 kV substation which distributes power to Niti (located about 70 kms away) and Goting (located about 75 km away) on existing 11 kV lines. The details of works proposed for Border out posts in Niti Valley are detailed hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Work Description	Unit	Total Scope
1	33/11 kV New S/s 2x3.15 MVA(Location: -Malari)	Nos.	1
2	11 KV Voltage Booster Transformer	Nos.	1
3	HT Line 33 kV (Km) ACSR Dog	cKm	50
4	HT Cable 33 KV (Km) 3*300 Sq MM 33 KV (Double ckt)	cKm	4
5	HT Line 11 kV (Km) ACSR Rabbit	cKm	118.50
6	HT Line 11 kV (Km) 3*120 Sq MM 11 KV (single ckt)	cKm	7
7	LT Line (3ph) Km AB Cable 3x95+1*70+1*16	cKm	10
8	DTR	Nos.	12
9	Cumulative transformation capacity	kVA	825
10	Total No. of BoPs to be served	Nos.	12
11	Total Expenditure	Rs. Cr.	87.24

- (2) With regard to the long 11 kV distribution network proposed for 12 Nos. BoPs in Niti valley, the Commission has observed that the BoP points namely Takulisain, Topi Dunga and Sanchutala would be worse affected due to long 11 kV radial distribution network. Further, the Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed installation of 01 nos. voltage booster transformer for the Niti Valley. The location for installing the voltage booster transformers has not been specified in Detailed Project Report (DPR).
- (3) With regard to land acquisition for the 2x3.15 MVA substation proposed at Malari, the Petitioner in its email dated 09.02.2026 has submitted that they are under discussion for land acquisition with concerned authorities.

- (4) The Commission has observed that currently the power in the Niti Valley is being fed from existing 33/11 kV substation at Joshimath, from where an 11 kV line extends to Niti. The Commission has observed that the proposed network bifurcates into Malari-Niti and Malari-Sumna. The Malari-Niti stretch extends up to Ganesh post. The Malari-Sumna stretch extends further to the tail-end Border Outposts namely Takulisem, Rimkhim, Chojan, Sanchu Talla and Topi Dunga where the voltage drop is certainly expected to be very high which results in low voltage condition at tail end. The Commission has observed that the network proposed by the Petitioner would certainly have issues of low voltage profile, higher losses and poor reliability if corrective action are not taken.

**(iv) BoP for District Pithoragarh (Vyas)**

- (1) The Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed the construction of a new 33/11 kV, 2x3.15MVA substation at Gunji to supply power to 9 nos. Border Outposts (BoPs) located in Vyas Valley. As per the Single Line Diagram, the total transformation capacity for the said 9 nos. BoPs is 713 kVA which would serve areas namely Dharchula (Gothi), Gunji, Garbyang, Chhiyalekh, kuti, Jaulikong, Wilsha, Kalapani and Navidhang. At present, the area is served by the existing Dharchula 33/11 kV substation which distributes power to Tawaghat (located about 18 kms away) on existing 33 kV lines. The details of works proposed for Border outposts in Vyas Valley are detailed hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Work Description	Unit	Total Scope
1	33/11 kV New S/s 2x3.15 MVA(Location: - Gunji)	Nos.	1
2	11 KV Voltage Booster Transformer	Nos.	1
3	HT Line 33 kV (Km) ACSR Dog	cKm	64
4	HT Cable 33 KV (Km) 3*300 Sq MM 33 KV (Double ckt)	cKm	4
5	HT Line 11 kV (Km) ACSR Rabbit	cKm	86
6	HT Line 11 kV (Km) 3*120 Sq MM 11 KV (single ckt)	cKm	6

Sl. No.	Work Description	Unit	Total Scope
7	LT Line (3ph) Km AB Cable 3x95+1*70+1*16	cKm	5.5
8	DTR	Nos.	9
9	Cumulative transformation capacity	kVA	713
10	Total No. of BoPs to be served	Nos.	9
11	Total Expenditure	Rs. Cr	80.35

- (2) The Commission has observed that the network proposed by the Petitioner would be serving 9 Nos. Border outposts which are situated at high altitude with tough terrain.
- (3) With regard to the long 11 kV distribution network proposed for 9 Nos. BoPs in Vyas valley, the Commission has observed that the BoP points namely Wilsha and Jaulikong would be worst affected due to the long 11 kV radial distribution network. Further, the Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed installation of 01 nos. voltage booster transformer for the VyasValley. The location for installing the voltage booster transformers has not been specified in Detailed Project Report (DPR).
- (4) The Commission has observed that currently the power in the Vyas Valley is being fed from the existing 33/11 kV substation at Dharchula and 33/11 kV S/s Tawaghat. The Commission has observed that the proposed network envisages a new S/s 2x3.15 MVA 33/11 kV at Gunji from where the 11 kV network would extend upto Gunji Post from where the network would further branch to extend BoPs posts. The farthest BoPs post in the proposed network would be Wilsha & Navidhang.
- (5) With regard to land acquisition for the 2x3.15 MVA substation proposed at Gunji, the Petitioner in its email dated 09.02.2026 has submitted that land has been identified at village Napalchu, Dharchula and land transfer is under process.
- (v) BoP for District Pithoragarh (Johar valley)**
- (1) The Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed the construction of a new 5 Nos. Border Outposts located in Johar Valley,

with an aggregate load of 275 KVA with distribution planned at 11 kV using ACSR Rabbit conductor. As per the Single Line Diagram, Lilam is the main hub for power distribution to the proposed BoPs networks namely Bugdiyar, Railakot, Milam, Dung and Balati Farms. At present, the area is served by the existing Darati 33/11 kV substation which distributes power to Lilam and from Munsiyari 33/11 kV substation which distributes power to Balati village (located about 2 kms away), on existing 11 kV line. The details of works proposed for Border outposts in Johar Valley are detailed hereunder: -

Sl. No.	Work Description	Unit	Total Scope
1	HT Line 11 kV (Km) ACSR Rabbit	cKm	52
2	HT Line 11 kV (Km) 3*120 Sq MM 11 KV (single ckt)	cKm	4
3	LT Line (3ph) Km AB Cable 3x95+1*70+1*16	cKm	2.5
4	DTR	Nos.	11
5	Cumulative transformation capacity	kVA	275
6	Total No. of BoPs to be served	Nos.	5
7	Total Expenditure	Rs. Cr	12.04

- (2) The Commission has observed that the network proposed by the Petitioner would be serving 5 Nos. Border outposts which are situated at high altitude with tough terrain.
- (3) The Commission has observed that the proposed 11 kV network is covered in two stretches, one 11 kV network would extend from Lilam to Dung covering total 4 BoPs and another stretch would extend from Balati Village up to Balati farm BoP.

**(vi) BoP for District Pithoragarh (Darma valley)**

- (1) The Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed the construction of a new 3 Nos. Border Outposts located in Darma Valley, with an aggregate load of 200 KVA with distribution planned at 11 kV using ACSR Rabbit conductor. As per the Single Line Diagram, Baungling is the main hub for power distribution to the proposed BoPs networks namely Tidang, Bedang and Dawe. At present, the area is served by the existing Tawaghat 33/11 kV substation which

distributes power to Baungling (located approx. 12 kms away), on existing 11 kV line. The details of works proposed for Border outposts in Darma Valley are detailed hereunder: -

Sl. No.	Work Description	Unit	Total Scope
1	HT Line 11 kV (Km) ACSR Rabbit	cKm	57
2	HT Line 11 kV (Km) 3*120 Sq MM 11 KV (single ckt)	cKm	3
3	LT Line (3ph) Km AB Cable 3x95+1*70+1*16	cKm	1.5
4	DTR	Nos.	5
5	Cumulative transformation capacity	kVA	200
6	Total No. of BoPs to be served	Nos.	3
7	Total Expenditure	Rs. Cr	18.86

- (2) The Commission has observed that the network proposed by the Petitioner would be serving 3 Nos. Border outposts which are situated at high altitude with tough terrain.
- (3) The Commission has observed that the proposed 11 kV network extends from Baungling to Tidang and further to Baidang & Dawe.

#### **Common observations/Views of the Commission w.r.t. proposed BoPs network**

- (1) With regard to the Voltage Booster Transformers (VBTs), the Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed total 04 nos. VBTs, however, the specific location of the same has not been identified yet. In this context, the Petitioner should install the Voltage Booster Transformer at such locations so that the voltage profile at the farthest point can be maintained within the specified permissible limits. Further, the Petitioner should ensure that under the low load conditions, the installed voltage booster transformers does not boost the voltages beyond the permissible limits endangering the safety of electrical equipment and consumers.
- (2) With regard to the long 11 kV network proposed under the instant Petition for the various BoPs located in tough geographical and climatic conditions, the Commission is of the view that the long 11 kV network has inherent limitations w.r.t. power transfer capability of the electrical network due to high voltage drop issues which not only decreases the voltage availability at the usage end but also results in high  $I^2R$  losses. **The Commission is of the**

**opinion that the Petitioner should either augment 'the proposed 11 kV Rabbit conductor with higher cross-section area conductor viz. Dog conductor atleast upto the main branching point of the long 11 kV radial network' OR 'provide 'N-1' line contingency provision atleast up to the main branching point of the long 11 kV network'. This would certainly help in reducing the voltage drop, I<sup>2</sup>R losses & help in increasing the reliability of the network under harsh geographical & climatic conditions.**

- (3) With regard to the Land availability and Forest clearance, the Commission has observed that the target date for completion of the works proposed for BoP is March, 2027 and the Petitioner is left with very less time as the region is having tough geographical & climatic conditions with limited number of working hours. With such stringent timelines and given harsh conditions, the Petitioner should finalize the land acquisition at the earliest and take all the necessary approval before mobilizing its resources on the ground so that the works do not stall due to the want of Land availability, forest clearance or any other clearances.
- (4) With regard to ensuring regular billing and recovery of revenue from the proposed locations. The Commission is of the view that the Petitioner should discuss with the concerned authorities for giving Single point connection for the 11 kV infrastructure which would not only help in ease in metering & billing but also help in reducing its operation & maintenance cost.
- (5) With regard to the inclusion of charges for the forest clearance in the amount of Rs. 327.51 Cr., the Petitioner in its email dated 12.02.2026 submitted that forest clearance would be paid extra i.e. over & above sanction amount and reiterated the clause 4.1 of RDSS guidelines which is reproduced below: -

***"4.1 Eligible Cost for determining grant***

*The project cost approved by the monitoring Committee or actual cost incurred for all the three components of the scheme, whichever is less, shall be the eligible cost for determining the grant under the scheme. Any cost overrun after approval of the project (by Monitoring Committee) due to any reason whatsoever shall not be eligible for any grant and shall be borne by the DISCOM/respective State Government. The eligible project*

*cost shall include Central taxes and all fees like forest clearance, highway and railway crossing fee etc.*

*The project cost shall however not include the cost of land, cost of buildings other than sub stations and anti theft police stations, service lines to new consumers, compensation towards ROW (except forest clearance, highway and railway crossing fee), office equipment & fixtures, spares (other than mandatory spares prescribed by manufacturer), T&P, road cutting charges, vehicles and salaries and establishment expenditure. Further, the project cost shall be reduced to the extent of any Liquidated Damages actually levied, but the encashment of performance security or bid security (EMD) shall not reduce the project cost”.*

In this regard, the Commission has observed that the instant Petition filed by the Petitioner has several open ends with very little information of the estimates rather the Petitioner has submitted the discovered prices post tendering for the approval of the Commission. The information submitted by the Petitioner is devoid of the detailed quantity & price estimates and also basic information viz. establishment cost, centage, supervision charges, contingency charges, details of taxes & duties etc. In fact, the proposal of the Petitioner is based on the outcome of the post tendering price discovery. The Commission expresses its dissatisfaction over the way the Petition has been placed before the Commission, *prima-facie* the instant proposal of the distribution licensee is not precise and merely provides a glimpse of expenditure proposed for the electrification of 43 Border out posts based on discovered prices post tendering. The Commission has observed that a lot of other expenses illustrated in the aforesaid clause 4.1 of RDSS guidelines are not covered under grant and therefore heavy unforeseen expenditure is expected, which is not covered through grant and the same would have huge impact on financial & commercial viability of the distribution business.

Further, the creation of electrical infrastructure at high altitudes with limited facilities poses several challenges not only w.r.t. site selection and installation of associated network but also w.r.t. maintenance of the proposed electrical network under harsh geographical and climatic conditions. Moreover,

availability of skilled manpower & machines during the outage conditions for the long 11 kV network is also important.

The Commission opines that this project has been envisaged considering the strategic importance, however, the Petitioner is cautioned to meticulously evaluate the above mentioned implications as any wrong estimation/casual approach in this context would result in severe dent on its commercial and financial viability of the distribution business.

**The Petitioner is directed to explore further financial assistance from the Central/State Govt. for any cost over runs and for maintenance of the assets over and above the normative charges so that the excessive burden of higher expenditures is not passed on to the consumers of the State.**

Moreover, the Commission is of the view that the Petitioner should explore w.r.t. insurance of works which are proposed to be extended in such geographically vulnerable and harsh climatic conditions.

- (6) With regard to testing & quality check of Power Transformers, Distribution Transformers, Voltage Booster Transformers, Circuit Breakers, Isolators and other electrical equipment & assets, the Commission opines that the same is a very important aspect which is to be ensured for their reliable and safe operation especially for BoP & VVP works. Hence, testing & quality control as per relevant IS/IEC standards conforming to the ambient conditions prevailing in such areas is of paramount importance. Therefore, **the Commission directs the Petitioner to ensure to conduct proper Factory Acceptance Tests, Routine Tests, Type Tests and Site Acceptance Tests for the aforesaid electrical equipment and assets as per relevant IS/IEC standards especially for BoP and VVP works.**

**(D) Vibrant Village Program (VVP)**

- (1) The Commission has observed that earlier MoP, GoI had decided to extend electricity distribution infrastructure to specific location of Uttarakhand and accordingly vide its notification dated 28.11.2023 sought cost estimates for extension of electricity Distribution infrastructure for specific locations in Uttarakhand if not covered under earlier approved Distribution infrastructure projects sanctioned under RDSS.

- (2) The Petitioner submitted a Detailed Project Report (DPR) of ₹60.12 Crore for providing electricity infrastructure in 26 Vibrant Village Program (VVP) villages, covering 1,675 households. This DPR was placed before the Monitoring Committee for approval. As per the scheme guidelines, the committee fixed a maximum cost of ₹2.75 lakh per household per village. Accordingly, only 11 villages covering 1,154 households were approved, and the remaining villages were not approved. Later, during the tender process, it was found that the cost for 3 more villages was also higher than the allowed limit of ₹2.75 lakh per household. Therefore, these 3 villages were also excluded from the award. Thereafter, the Monitoring Committee, in its 30<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 08.03.2024, finally approved the Vibrant Village Program for **8 villages covering 882 households**, with a total project cost of **₹12.89 Crore**. The remaining 793 households across 18 villages, which could not be covered under the RDSS cost norms, have been proposed to be electrified through stand-alone solar systems under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). M/s PFC vide its letter dated 14.03.2024 sanctioned the funding for works amounting to **₹12.89 Crore**.
- (3) The cost breakup of the works proposed under **Vibrant Village Program (VVP)** under RDSS are detailed hereunder: -

Sl. No	District	Upstream Source Sub-Station	Location	Name of the Vibrant Village	Total No. of Unelectrified households	Awarded Cost (Rs. Lakhs)
1	Uttarkashi	33/11kv S/s Bhatwari (2x3.15 MVA)	Uttarkashi	Purali area (Tangra, Shiyangaad, Ghaya, Chabiyara, Ghada)	75	195.937
		<b>Sub-total Dist. Uttarkashi</b>			<b>75</b>	<b>195.937</b>
2	Pithoragarh	33/11kv S/s Gunji 2x3.15 MVA (Proposed in BOP)	Vyas valley	Navi	32	73.59
3			Vyas valley	Kuti	115	99.85
4			Vyas valley	Gunji	194	262.8
5			Vyas valley	Garbyang	192	232.21
			<b>Sub-total Vyas Valley</b>			<b>533</b>
6		33/11kv S/s Tawaghat (2x3.15 MVA)	Darma Valley	Sela	63	118.71

Sl. No	District	Upstream Source Sub-Station	Location	Name of the Vibrant Village	Total No. of Unelectrified households	Awarded Cost (Rs. Lakhs)
7			Darma Valley	Baling	90	177.49
8			Darma Valley	Tidang	121	137.18
		<b>Sub-total Darma Valley</b>			<b>274</b>	<b>433.38</b>
		<b>Sub-total Dist. Pithoragarh</b>			<b>807</b>	<b>1101.83</b>
		<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>882</b>	<b>1297.76</b>

The valley-wise observations and views of the Commission are detailed hereunder: -

**(i) Vibrant Village in District - Uttarkashi**

- (1) The Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed to electrify the areas nearby identified vibrant village namely Purali in Uttarkashi Valley whereby the construction of new 5 Nos. DTR with cumulative load of 125 KVA has been proposed. As per the Single Line Diagram, Purali is the main hub for Vibrant village program and further, the network has been extended for the distribution of power supply to the small villages namely Tangra, Ghada, Shinayad, Chabiyara and Ghaya. At present, the area is served by the existing 33/11 kV S/s Malla, Uttarkashi which distributes power to Purali (located approx. 40 kms away) on existing 11 kV line. The details of works proposed for Vibrant Village Program in Uttarkashi Valley are detailed hereunder: -

Sl. No.	Work Description	Unit	Total Scope
1	HT Line 11 kV (Km) ACSR Rabbit	cKm	3.65
2	LT Line (3ph) Km AB Cable 3x95+1*70+1*16	cKm	7
3	DTR	Nos.	5
4	Cumulative transformation capacity	kVA	125
5	New HHs Service Connection	Nos.	75
6	No. of VVPs	Nos.	1
7	Total Expenditure	Rs. Cr.	1.95

**(ii) Vibrant Village in Vyas valley for District - Pithoragarh**

- (1) The Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed to electrify 4 Nos. Vibrant Villages in Vyas valley namely Navi, Kuti, Gunji and Garbyang. The construction of new 11 Nos. DTR for the said Vibrant Villages in Vyas valley with cumulative load of 351 KVA has been proposed. As per the Single Line Diagram, the proposed 33/11 kV S/s at Gunji would serve the aforesaid VVPs through 11 kV network. At present the area of Tawaghat and adjoining areas is served through existing 33/11 kV S/s Tawaghat (located approx. 18 Kms from Dharchula). The details of works proposed for the Vibrant Village Program in Vyas Valley are detailed hereunder: -

Sl. No.	Work Description	Unit	Total Scope
1	HT Line 11 kV (Km) ACSR Rabbit	cKm	5
2	LT Line (3ph) Km AB Cable 3x95+1*70+1*16	cKm	13.5
3	DTR	Nos.	11
4	Cumulative transformation capacity	kVA	351
5	New HHs Service Connection	Nos.	533
6	No. of VVPs	Nos.	4
7	Total Expenditure	Rs. Cr.	6.68

**(iii) Vibrant Village in Darma valley for District - Pithoragarh**

- (1) The Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed to electrify 03 nos. VVPs in Darma Valley namely Sela, Baling and Tidang. The construction of new 8 Nos. DTR for the said Vibrant Villages in Darma valley with cumulative load of 200 kVA is proposed. As per the Single Line Diagram, Baungling is the main hub for Vibrant village program from where the network has been proposed to extend further for the aforesaid VVPs. At present the area of Tawaghat and adjoining areas of Baungling are served through existing 33/11 kV S/s Tawaghat (located approx. 18 Kms from Dharchula). The details of works proposed for Vibrant Village program in Darma Valley are detailed hereunder: -

Sl. No.	Work Description	Unit	Total Scope
1	HT Line 11 kV (Km) ACSR Rabbit	cKm	7
2	LT Line (3ph) Km AB Cable 3x95+1*70+1*16	cKm	3.5
3	DTR	Nos.	8
4	Cumulative transformation capacity	kVA	200
5	New HHs Service Connection	Nos.	274
6	No. of VVPs	Nos.	3
7	Total Expenditure	Rs. Cr.	4.33

**Common observations/Views of the Commission w.r.t. proposed Vibrant Village Network**

- (1) The Commission has observed that as of now the areas proposed under VVPs are unelectrified and the areas exist in the higher Himalayan region having tough geographical terrain and harsh climatic conditions. The Commission is of the view that the said areas basically fall under the ambit of snowbound region and require availability of electricity for the basic needs of living in such regions. The Commission opines that ensuring basic infrastructure for living in such areas is not only beneficial for the residents of such areas, but also, the same is important from the strategic point of view as these areas are close to the border and any habitation in the areas would act as support for the ground forces besides encouraging local employment, tourism and commercial activity in the areas.
- (2) The Commission is of the view that the proposed works of electrification of HHs covered under VVP be properly executed to develop a robust & reliable network. Moreover, the Petitioner should ensure to provide prompt maintenance services for such areas as delay in providing services to the consumers would not only result in making expenditure on such electrification works futile but also may result in higher compensation to the consumers besides making them discontented.
- (3) The Commission opines that the electrification in the proposed areas would help in social upliftment, improving education, healthcare & livelihoods for

the inhabitants residing in geographically tough and harsh climatic conditions.

**(E) Auxiliary Items (LT Cables for DT Smart Metering):**

- (1) The Commission has observed that earlier the MoP, GoI had issued guidelines on 16.08.2023 for evaluating auxiliary items under the RDSS scheme. Subsequently, the Monitoring Committee, in its 27th meeting held on 25.01.2024, revised these guidelines specifically for Low Tension (LT) auxiliary items related to Distribution Transformer (DT) metering. The revised guidelines allowed a cable length of 8 meters per phase & neutral i.e. 32 meters per Distribution Transformer. In this regard, the Petitioner had sought approval for auxiliary LT items covering 100% consumer metering and DT metering with an estimated cost of ₹262.22 crore. However, upon subsequent revisions of the DPR and discussions with the Nodal Agency, Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a revised DPR amounting to ₹20.19 crore for consideration of the Monitoring Committee was submitted which was accorded by the Monitoring Committee in its 45<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 10.01.2025 covering supply & installation of LT cables for only 46,768 DT smart meters across Uttarakhand with DT capacity (ranging from 25 KVA to 630 KVA). The details of the works proposed for Auxiliary Cable for Smart Metering are detailed hereunder: -

Sl. No.	DT Capacity	DT No.	Cable size	Cable Qty (in meters)	Unit price (Rs/ meter)	Total (Rs Cr.)
1	25 KVA	22,179	1x35 sq. mm.	7,09,715	61.97	4.40
2	63 KVA	10,781	1x70 sq. mm.	3,44,995	109.26	3.77
3	100 KVA	9,753	1x120 sq. mm.	3,12,106	153.29	4.78
4	160 KVA	217	1x240 sq. mm.	6,934	306.58	0.21
5	250 KVA	2,514	1x400 sq. mm.	80,461	472.92	3.81
6	400 KVA	1,078	1x630 sq. mm.	34,480	719.17	2.48
7	500 KVA	151	2Rx1x400 sq. mm.	9,664	472.92	0.46
8	630 KVA	95	2Rx1x400 sq. mm.	6,080	472.92	0.29
		<b>46,768</b>		<b>1,504,435</b>	<b>2,769.03</b>	<b>20.19</b>

- (2) With regards to the proposed works of LT cables for DT meters, the Commission has observed that the LT cables are an essential element

required for metering of DT meters. Therefore, the Commission is of the view that the Petitioner should have envisaged the same in its original DPR for installation of smart meters at Distribution Transformers covered under RDSS. Further, the Commission is of the view that installation of meters at DT & feeder level is not a onetime exercise and requires consistent efforts by the distribution licensee.

- (3) The Petitioner should ensure to cover cent percent DT on each 11 kV feeder where smart meter installation works have been proposed, and no DT Meter installation should be delayed due to want of LT cable for the same.
- (4) Any laxity on part of the distribution licensee in installation or upkeep of the smart meters at DT level would make the entire exercise futile and also affect the financial viability & sustainability of the discom. If the project is implemented and maintained properly, the same would certainly help in easy identification of the high loss-making pockets followed by effective measures for taking corrective actions.

**The Commission directs the Petitioner to select & procure LT cables conforming to the relevant standards for ensuring its longevity and reliability.**

**(F) DA-JGUA (Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan)**

- (1) The Commission has observed that Ministry of Power (MoP) decided to take-up electrification of identified tribal households (HHs) and public institutions as per list provided under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) erstwhile PMJUGA under RDSS. The basic criteria for the selection of village under DAJGUA were 'villages with a population of 500 or more and with atleast 50% Scheduled Tribe population' and 'Villages in aspirational districts with 50 or more Scheduled Tribes'.

Later, a proposal in this regard were prepared and RDSS monitoring committee in its 47<sup>th</sup> meeting on 21.03.2025 approved the proposal for electrification of unelectrified tribal households (207 nos. HHs) and public institutions (19 nos.) amounting to Rs. 0.90 Cr. The discovered average price

was Rs. 38,867 per household and corresponding financial assistance to the Petitioner for the said works was approved under DAJGUA vide M/s PFC letter dated 26.03.2025.

- (2) The Petitioner has submitted the summary of the sanctioned works, which are proposed to be electrified through an On-Grid system.

Sl. No	Name of District	Details of beneficiaries to be electrified through On Grid			
		HHs (in Nos)	Public institutions	Total Beneficiary	Approved project cost (Rs in Lakhs)
1	Bageshwar	2	9	11	7.54
2	Pithoragarh	0	5	5	0.03
3	Haridwar	31	0	31	1.11
4	Udham Singh Nagar	106	3	109	6.16
5	Uttarkashi	24	2	26	0.14
6	Dehradun	44	0	44	75.13
<b>Total</b>		<b>207</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>90.1</b>

- (3) With regard to the electrification of DAJGUA HHs & Public Institutions, the Commission is of the view that this scheme provides electricity to remote DAJGUA (Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan) HHs & Public Institutions which would certainly help in their social upliftment including improving education, healthcare & livelihoods besides overall development of the area in the vicinity of such HHs.
- (4) The Commission has observed that the Petitioner was supposed to complete the works of DAJGUA latest by December-2025, however, as per the submission, out of total 226 households/public institutions only 137 have been electrified till 08.12.2025. The Petitioner should make all its efforts to take necessary approvals from M/s PFC for delay in execution and ensure that the grant amount against the same is received.
9. Based on the observations and views discussed above w.r.t. 'Increase in scope of smart meters', 'PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) works', 'Electrification work of Border-out-Posts(BoP works)', 'Electrification of HHs under Vibrant village program', 'Auxiliary items ( LT cable for DT smart metering' and 'DA-JGUA ( Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan)', the Commission is of the view that broadly the aforesaid proposed works are related to electrical infrastructure extension and system improvement which are envisaged to connect

areas/consumers which have not been electrified/connected to the Grid till date. Further, the Commission has observed that the electrical networks proposed for the same are long and have high inherent technical losses. Therefore, optimization of technical losses alongwith revenue recovery is a vital aspect which needs to be seen by the Petitioner so that the commercial & financial viability of the distribution business can be ensured.

10. With regard to the in-principle approval for the instant Petition, the Commission has observed that Regulation 22(4) of UERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of MYT) Regulations, 2024 provides that: - *“Any addition/modification to the existing assets exceeding Rs. 2.50 Crore in case of distribution licensees, Rs. 5 Crore in case of generating companies/transmission licensees shall be taken up only after prior approval of the Commission. The application for approval of the Commission shall be accompanied with the approval of the BoD in accordance with UERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2014”*.

From the above, it is evident that the distribution licensee is required to take prior approval of the Commission for any addition/modification to the existing assets exceeding Rs. 2.5 Crore. Whereas, in the instant matter, on examination of the Petitioner’s submission, it is observed that majority of the works are either under progress or have been completed. The Commission has observed that the proposed works are covered under RDSS project for which 90% grant is available from the nodal agency i.e. M/s PFC which are to be completed within the timelines specified under the RDSS project. Therefore, in order to minimize the burden of financing w.r.t. capital expenditure on the consumers of the State and considering the fact that the proposed works are to be completed within defined timelines, the Commission has decided to take a considerate view with regard to the requirement of prior in-principle approval in the matter. The Commission warns the Petitioner against any non-compliance in this regard in future. Hence, the Commission finds it prudent to allow post-facto approval for the works proposed in the instant Petition.

11. In light of the above discussions, the *Commission* grants *post-facto* approval for the works proposed in the Petition subject to the following conditions: -
  - (i) The Petitioner is directed to ensure that each investment approval Petition is furnished before the Commission after taking approval from the BoD for the

specific works and amount which is covered in the Petition. Further, Petitioner is directed not to repeat such mistakes in future investment proposals else the same may attract action against the distribution licensee under the provisions of the Act / Regulations.

- (ii) The Petitioner is directed to ensure that the timelines alongwith all technical guidelines and best practices as per RDSS project are complied so that the eligible grants are received from M/s PFC/MoP and timeline should not exceed the sunset date as prescribed in the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Power (MoP), Government of India.
- (iii) The Petitioner is directed to cautiously evaluate the financial & commercial implications associated with the works proposed for Border Outposts and VVP, any wrong estimation/casual approach in this context may result in severe dent on its commercial & financial viability of the distribution business.
- (iv) The Petitioner is directed to seek financial assistance from the Central/State Govt. for any cost over runs (quantity variation or time), balance amount required for successful completion of the project and maintenance cost of the assets over & above the normative charges so that the excessive burden of higher expenditures is not passed on to the consumers of the State.
- (v) The Petitioner is directed to meticulously select & procure electrical equipment and assets conforming to the relevant standards so as to ensure its longevity and reliability in geographically tough and harsh climatic conditions.
- (vi) With regard to the high voltage drop and technical losses in the long 11 kV network proposed especially for Border Outpost works, the Petitioner is directed to technically & commercially re-asses its proposal and wherever required augment 'the proposed 11 kV Rabbit conductor with higher cross-section conductor viz. Dog conductor' Or 'provide 'N-1' line contingency provision for the long 11 kV network'. This would certainly help in reducing the voltage drop,  $I^2R$  losses & help in increasing the reliability of the network under harsh geographical & climatic conditions.

- (vii) The Petitioner is directed to ensure effective planning & designing especially for the works proposed under BoP & VVP and ensure that the same have been envisaged after considering the constraints arisen due to geographical and ambient conditions viz. extreme sub-zero temperatures, high altitudes, deration factors, snow loadings etc. Further, ensure that the proposed network would comply to all the technical and safety compliances necessary for the works proposed under the instant Petition.
- (viii) The Petitioner should make its all endeavors for exploring appropriate insurance policy for the works which are proposed to be extended in geographically vulnerable and harsh climatic conditions post commissioning of the same.
- (ix) The Petitioner shall ensure site selection especially for substations after detailed geo-physical study/clearance in order to safeguard its electrical assets and manpower from the potential dangers of tough geographical terrain and harsh climatic conditions.
- (x) The Petitioner shall make its all efforts for releasing the connections w.r.t. BoP at Single point connection by discussing the matter with concerned authorities. This would not only help with metering & billing but also would help in reducing its operation & maintenance cost.
- (xi) The Petitioner is directed to conduct proper Factory Acceptance Tests, Routine Tests, Type Tests and Site Acceptance Tests for the electrical equipment & assets as per relevant IS/IEC standards especially for BoP and VVP works. Further, the Petitioner should select & procure LT cables conforming to the relevant standards for ensuring its longevity and reliability for works proposed for Aux. items (LT cables for DTs).
- (xii) The Petitioner is directed to submit the scheduled program in the form of Bar Chart within one month of the Order. Further, Petitioner is required to submit quarterly progress report vis-a-vis the scheduled program for the Project on regular basis.
- (xiii) The Commission may verify/check the proposed works to be executed by the Petitioner at any point of time during/post execution of the works from the perspective of not only substantiating that the assertions & commitments

made by the Petitioner have been fully complied and correct, but also to assess Quality, Optimum utilization of resources, benefits accrued from the proposed investments etc. as has been projected by the Petitioner.

- (xiv) Post execution of the project, the Petitioner shall submit the Project Completion Report to the Commission alongwith photographs, expenditure incurred/completed cost, financing of the Project and detailed analysis & calculations of the benefits accrued from the proposed investments etc.
- (xv) Since some works have been completed/under progress and few works have been awarded prior to this approval of the Commission, therefore, prudence of the expenditures incurred against the cost of the Project shall be examined/scrutinized at the time of ARR filing.
- (xvi) The Petitioner shall comply to the following CEA and UERC Regulations and amendments thereof:
  - (1) Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of meters) Regulations 2006.
  - (2) Central Electricity Authority (Safety requirements for construction, operation and maintenance of electrical plants and electric lines) Regulations, 2011.
  - (3) Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, 2022.
  - (4) Central Electricity Authority (Measures relating to Safety and Electricity Supply) Regulations, 2023.
  - (5) UERC (Distribution Code) Regulations, 2018.
- (xvii) The Petitioner shall, within one month of the Order, submit a letter from the State Government or any such documentary evidence in support of its claim for equity funding agreed by the State Government or any other source in respect of the proposed schemes.
- (xviii) After completion of the aforesaid project, the Petitioner shall submit the completed cost and financing of the project.

12. The approval is given subject to the above conditions and on the basis of submissions and statement of facts made by the Petitioner in the Petition under affidavit. In case of violations of any of the condition mentioned above or in case any information provided, if at any time, later on, found to be incorrect, incomplete or in case relevant information was not disclosed, that materially affects the basis for granting the approvals, in such cases, the Commission may cancel the approval or refuse to allow all or part of the expenses incurred in the ARR/True-up apart from initiating plenary action.

Ordered accordingly.

**(Prabhat Kishor Dimri)**  
**Member (Technical)**

**(Anurag Sharma)**  
**Member (Law)**

**(M. L. Prasad)**  
**Chairman**