



# ASSAM ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

## ORDER SHEET

FILE NO. AERC 710/2019

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**CORAM:** HON'BLE SHRI S.C. DAS, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE SHRI S. N. KALITA, MEMBER  
HON'BLE SMTI B. BORTHAKUR, MEMBER

**In the matter of**

Mitigation of impact of COVID-19 on the consumers and Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL)

**SUO-MOTU ORDER**

**15.06.2020**

1. Commission vide Suo-moto order Dated 24.04.2020 decided to provide certain relaxation on electricity bills for the bills, raised in April' 2020 and May' 2020 against the consumption for the month of March'2020 and April'2020 respectively, due to the lock down imposed for COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Subsequently, various consumers/ consumer groups like FINER approached the Commission for further relaxation in the subsequent electricity bills.
3. APDCL vide their letter No. APDCL/CGM (Com & EE)/Revenue Matters/2020-21/1 dated 09.06.2020 has furnished their views on the said matter.
4. The Commission has examined and analysed the pros and cons of the matter and the observations and decision of the Commission is accorded in the subsequent paras.
5. The Commission observed that Government has eased the lock down in a phased manner with effect from 15.04.2020. As of now, almost all activities have been allowed to operate except in the containment zone and accordingly all economic activities have started.
6. The Commission noted that with the functioning of the economic activities across the state, the demand for power is also increasing day by day and APDCL is required to maintain the power supply by making power available to meet the increasing demand.
7. The Commission is also aware that any relaxation at this time will have an adverse impact in future tariff across all the category of consumers.
8. The Commission is also aware that though the economic activities have been started, the cash flow position is yet to be normalised and will take some time. So, there is need for continuation of relaxation of the delayed payment surcharge.
9. The Commission has noted with concern that APDCL has already allowed 1% rebate in the bills of the Consumers for the month of June' 2020 against consumption for the month of May' 2020, without approval of the Commission.
10. As APDCL has allowed the rebate without prior approval of the Commission, the Commission will not allow the same as "Pass through" in tariff. APDCL will have to bear

the same of their own.

11. However, the delayed payment surcharge of 1% will continue upto 31.10.2020 for the bills raised between April' 2020 to October'2020 for the consumption of March'2020 to September'2020 and with effect from 01.11.2020 the delayed surcharge will be 1.5% as per the tariff order dated 07.03.2020.

It is needless to mention that if the Government provide any financial aid to mitigate the hardship of the Consumers the same should be passed on to the consumers.

s/d

**(B. Borthakur)**  
**Member, AERC**

s/d

**(S. N. Kalita)**  
**Member, AERC**

s/d

**(S. C. Das)**  
**Chairperson, AERC**