

**Before**

**UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**In the matter of:**

Commission's order dated 30.8.2007 regarding waiver of late payment surcharge for recovery of electricity arrears outstanding against PTW consumers.

**Coram**

<b>Shri V.J.Talwar</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Shri V.K. Khanna</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Shri Anand Kumar</b>	<b>Member</b>

**Dater of Order: 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2008**

**ORDER**

A representation was filed before the Commission by Bhartiya Kisan Union, Haridwar reporting irregularities in the implementation of the scheme of waiver of late payment surcharge, as approved by the Commission on 31.8.2008, in their area (Jhabreda, Haridwar) by the concerned field officers of UPCL and sought extension of time for operation of this scheme.

2. The subject matter is related to the Commission's order dated 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2007 on the application filed by UPCL to introduce scheme for waiver of late

payment surcharge for recovery of electricity arrears outstanding against private tube well /Pump set Agriculture consumers and the subsequent Commission's order dated 13-12-2007 extending the operation of the scheme up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008. The requisite complete reports on implementation of this scheme as required under Item 4 in the order dated 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2007 have not yet been received in the Commission.

3. Looking at the grounds of the representation and prayers made therein, the Commission decided to hear the applicant. Accordingly a hearing was fixed in the matter on 11.04.08. The representatives of the Bhartiya Kisan Union appeared before the Commission comprising of Shri V.K.Khanna, Member and Shri Anand Kumar, Member on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2008. Director (Finance), ED (Commercial) and other concerned senior functionaries of UPCL also attended this hearing. During this hearing, it was pointed out by the representatives of the Bhartiya Kisan Union that a large number of PTW consumers in their area have not been able to avail of the benefit of this scheme and clear the payment of their outstanding electricity arrears within the closing date of the operation of this scheme, even though they had registered themselves for the same well before the stipulated period. This is mainly on account of the disputes arising in the amount of the outstanding arrears including late payment surcharge shown in their bills which though in some cases was resolved by the field officers and payments received and benefit of the scheme extended but in large number of cases, such disputes remained unresolved by the field officers of UPCL and these farmers could not avail of the benefit of this scheme.

4. The Commission has considered the representation of the Bhartiya Kisan Union and prima-facie observed that the benefit of this scheme to such farmers appears to have been deprived mainly due to non settlement of the billing

disputes by the UPCL field officers even when these PTW consumers had registered well before time for availing of the benefit of this scheme.

5. After the hearing and having considered the matter, the Commission has now decided that all PTW consumers who have valid registration well before the closing date i.e. 31-03-2008 but could not avail of the benefit of the scheme due to their disputed ``billing amount being kept unresolved by UPCL, would be eligible to take the benefit of this scheme as approved under its order dated 30-08-2007. However since this matter cannot be kept open indefinitely, the Commission has also decided that all such cases of registered consumers under this scheme shall be resolved by UPCL latest by 30-06-2008 and report on the action completed be sent to the Commission within a fortnight thereafter i.e. 15-07-2008.

**(Anand Kumar)**  
Member

**(V.K. Khanna)**  
Member

**(V.J. Talwar)**  
Chairman