

CHAPTER VI : MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Prasar Bharati

6.1 Additional payment for electricity supply due to excess sanctioned load

Failure to assess the sanctioned load in consonance with actual requirement resulted in excess payment of ₹ 82.41 lakh on account of fixed charges.

As per the schedule of electricity tariff of NDPL¹, for all non-domestic categories of consumers, fixed charges were to be levied on sanctioned load or Maximum Demand Index (MDI²) reading, whichever is higher, on per KVA basis. Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) guidelines stated that from the period April 2009 to March 2010 onwards, the average of the three highest maximum demand readings recorded by the consumer during the 12 month period would be adopted to revise the sanctioned load during the ensuing year i.e. 2010-11. Any prudent and large consumer of electricity was expected to see that it does not pay fixed charges on account of inflated sanctioned load.

Audit examination (March 2012) of the records of two units³ of Prasar Bharati (PB) revealed that the sanctioned loads were in excess of the consumption pattern suggesting that the load assessment was not carried out as per the DERC guidelines. The excess sanctioned load resulted in additional payment of fixed charges of ₹ 82.41 lakh during the period April 2010 to March 2012 as indicated in the table below:

Unit of PB	Period	Sanctioned load (In KVA)	Load assessment as per DERC guidelines ⁴ (In KVA)	Excess sanctioned load (In KVA)	Excess payment on account of fixed charges
Superintending Engineer, High Power Transmitter, All India	April 2010 to March 2011	5214	3741	1472	1472KVA*12months* ₹ 150= ₹ 26.50 lakh
	April 2011 to July	5214	3191	2023	2023KVA*4months* ₹ 150= ₹ 12.14 lakh

¹ North Delhi Power Limited

² Maximum Demand Index- The highest consumption reading shown in the monthly bill.

³ Superintending Engineer, High Power Transmitter, All India Radio, Khampur and Superintending Engineer, High Power Transmitter, All India Radio, Kingsway Camp

⁴ Average of three highest demand readings recorded in the previous financial year by the consumer.

Radio, Khampur	2011				
	August 2011 to March 2012	5214	3191	2023	2023KVA*8months* ₹ 125=₹ 20.23 lakh
Superintending Engineer, High Power Transmitter, All India Radio, Kingsway Camp	April 2010 to March 2011	1470	813	657	657KVA*12months* ₹ 150=₹ 11.83 lakh
	April 2011 to July 2011	1470	738	732	732KVA*4months* ₹ 150=₹ 4.39 lakh
	August 2011 to March 2012	1470	738	732	732KVA*8months* ₹ 125=₹ 7.32 lakh
Total					₹ 82.41 lakh

Audit further noted that NDPL revised the tariff category of both the units from MLHT to NDHT in September 2011. However, despite the reduction in tariff category the sanctioned load was not assessed and lowered as per procedure, resulting in excess payment of ₹ 82.41 lakh during the period April 2010 to March 2012.

The Ministry endorsed (February 2013) the reply of Prasar Bharati that in both the stations, the sanctioned loads were revised suitably in consonance with the actual requirement. The station at Khampur got its sanctioned load reduced from 5214 KVA to 4000 KVA with effect from April 2012. It further stated that it had kept a safety margin to avoid penalty charges by the distribution utility if the MDI goes beyond the sanctioned load.

Further, the station at Kingsway Camp got its sanctioned load reduced from 1470 KVA to 650 KVA w.e.f. June 2012.

Replies of the department endorse audit observation. PB may review the sanctioned load of all its units with a view to ascertain whether the sanctioned load is close to actual requirement as per procedure prescribed by relevant Electricity Regulatory Commission.