Petition No. 60/MP/2019

Subject : Petition seeking relief against scheduling of suo-motu power to Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited by Western Regional Load Despatch Centre.

Petitioner : Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL)

Respondents : Western Regional Load Despatch Centre (WRLDC) and Ors.

Date of Hearing : 23.6.2020

Coram : Shri P. K. Pujari, Chairperson
Shri I. S. Jha, Member
Shri Arun Goyal, Member

Parties present : Shri G. Umapathy, Advocate, MSEDCL
Shri Sitesh Mukherjee, Advocate, WRLDC
Shri Abhishek Kumar, Advocate, WRLDC
Shri Sachin Jain, NTPC
Shri Parimal Piyush, NTPC
Shri A. S. Pandey, NTPC

Record of Proceedings

The matter was listed for hearing through video conferencing.

2. Learned counsel for the Petitioner submitted that the instant Petition has been filed, inter-alia, seeking relief against scheduling of un-requisitioned power i.e.137.66 MUs to the Petitioner by the Respondent, Western Regional Load Despatch Centre (WRLDC), and to direct WRLDC to refund/ adjust Rs.50.60 crore to the Petitioner which was released to the generating company towards above un-requisitioned power. Learned counsel advanced his extensive arguments in support of his contention by relying upon the various provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Indian Electricity Grid Code) Regulations, 2009 ( in short ‘the Grid Code’) and the Detailed Operating Procedure (DOP) for backing down of Coal/Lignite/Gas unit(s) of the Central Generating Stations, Inter-State Generating Station and Other Generating Stations and reasons for taking such unit under Reserve Shut Down on scheduling below Technical Minimum Schedule issued thereunder and reiterated the submission made in his pleadings. Learned counsel submitted that the basic contention of the Petitioner is that WRLDC has suo-motu scheduled power of Solapur, Mauda and Gandhar generating stations from 23rd June, 2018 to 26th July, 2018 despite no requisition from the beneficiaries.
3. In response to the Commission`s specific query as to whether WRLDC has taken action in contravention to the provisions of the Grid Code and DOP, learned counsel for the Respondent, WRLDC replied in the negative and advanced extensive arguments in support of his contentions by relying upon the various provisions of the Grid Code and DOP and reiterated the submission made in his pleadings. Learned counsel submitted that the scheduling was carried out in the interest of system security. Learned counsel submitted that the Petitioner, while seeking initiation of action under Section 142 read with Section 149 of the Electricity Act, 2003 against WRLDC, has made certain personal allegations against Executive Director, WRLDC, which ought to be expunged from the record.

4. The representative of the Respondent, NTPC, submitted that the action of WRLDC is in line with the provisions of the Grid Code. He further submitted that NTPC has raised the bill on the Petitioner as per the Regional Energy Account issued by WRPC. However, the Petitioner has withheld certain amount. The representative of NTPC requested to direct the Petitioner to pay the withheld amount against the power suo-motu scheduled by WRLDC from Solapur and Mouda-I generating stations.

5. After hearing the learned counsels for the Petitioner and the Respondent, WRLDC, and the representative of the Respondent, NTPC, the Commission directed the parties to file their respective written submissions, if any, within one week from the issuance of the ROP with copy to each other.

6. Subject to above, the Commission reserved order in the Petition.

By order of the Commission

Sd/-
(T.D. Pant)
Deputy Chief (Law)