



Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission

Civil Lines, G.E. Road, Raipur – 492001

Tel: 0771-5073555, Fax-5073553

Petition No. 21/2005

M/s Dhote Printers Pvt.Ltd., Raipur.....Petitioner

V/s

Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Respondents

ORDER

Passed on 17.8.2005 in Petition No. 21 of 2005(C.C.)

M/s Dhote Printers Pvt.Ltd., Raipur has submitted a petition seeking a change in his consumer category for the purposes of tariff, from commercial to industrial. The main grounds on which petition have been submitted are the following :-

- (i) The petitioner company is an industry manufacturing packing material since 1970. The unit has been registered in the District Industries Office, Raipur in 1969. Printing is an essential part of preparation of packing material and manufacture of package cartons. It is a small-scale industry as classified by the Development Commissioner (SSI), Government of India. Manufacture of cardboard boxes and other paper containers are classified as small-scale industries.
- (ii) He avails supply of electricity from the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB) and presently has an LT connection of 99 HP. On the basis of his representation the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (the predecessor of CSEB) had levied demand charges and energy charges as per industrial tariff and not commercial tariff as had been done hitherto. However, after the State of Chhattisgarh was created commercial tariff has been made applicable to him. At one point of time, the Board officials had decided that LT industrial tariff should be applicable to the unit. In this connection, he has referred the letter of Superintending Engineer (Commercial) bearing No.02-02/SE/II/202 dated 28.04.02 addressed to the Chief Engineer (RR). (Apparently the year 2002 is not correct. It should be 2003 as could be seen from the endorsement of the letter wherein reference of letter dated 9.4.2003 has been given). But the recommendation in this letter has not been implemented. The Board has conveyed to him on 24.03.05 that since tariff applicable to printing press is commercial tariff, this is applicable to him.

2. The CSEB, the respondent in their reply submitted that though the petitioner is registered as a small-scale industry for manufacture of packing material of *agarbatti*, *tissue paper* etc., it is primarily printing work which is being done by the unit. The petitioner has two offset printing machines. The CSEB has further pointed out that at no point of time ever since 1970 did they agree to treat the petitioner as an industry for the purposes of tariff. Although the concerned Superintending Engineer of the CSEB had recommended vide his letter mentioned above, that industrial tariff should be applicable to his unit, on inspection of the unit it was found that the main work being done in the unit was printing and hence the

recommendation as above was not accepted and commercial tariff continues to be made applicable to him. The petitioner has repeatedly represented to the CSEB about his plea, which has not been accepted.

3. The Commission heard the arguments of the parties on 11.08.05. It is not the petitioner's case that printing press should be treated as industry and tariff at industrial rates should be made applicable to them. His case is that he is an industry manufacturing packaging material of which printing is an essential part. He has also pleaded that since in his manufacturing line value addition is much more than would be if it were mere printing, his unit should not be treated as a printing press. It is true that the petitioner has been registered as a smallscale industry and the manufacturing of his product is categorised as an industry. The fact, however, remains that his main job is printing and it is of little consequence that he is printing packaging material for preparation of small packages and boxes. All the other activities, as part of the manufacturing process, are only allied to printing, such as cutting, glazing or waxing etc. Out of the 99 HP connected load he has from the CSEB more than 67 HP load is for the offset printing machines and allied activities. Any printing press has to have certain other facilities like cutting, sizing of paper etc. In fact, when he had applied for enhancement of load from 76HP to 99HP in 1995 his unit was inspected by the officers of the then MPEB and the above position was established.

4. On the basis of consumption of electricity by the various machines installed in the petitioner's unit is quite evident that the primary job of the unit is printing for which major portion of the power is consumed. Other activities undertaken in the unit are for value addition and do not involve consumption of much electricity.

5. Printing presses have been charged tariff at commercial rate since a long time. The petitioner has been paying charges at this rate ever since the unit was set up in 1970 as already mentioned. The petitioner's case is not in favour of treating printing as an industry but to treat him as industry and make industrial tariff applicable to him. Since printing is the main activity for which electricity is consumed in the unit, the Commission cannot accept the plea of the petitioner that industrial tariff should be applicable to him. The petition is accordingly rejected.

6. Copy of the order be given to the petitioner as well as the respondent.

Sd/-
Member

Sd/-
Chairman

True Copy

(Mukesh Nahar)
Jt. Director