

**BEFORE THE FORUM**  
**FOR REDRESSAL OF CONSUMER GRIEVANCES**  
**IN SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P LIMITED TIRUPATI**

**On this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September' 2021**

**C.G.No.11/2021-22/Kurnool Circle**

**Present**

**Sri. Dr. A. Jagadeesh Chandra Rao**

**Sri. Y.Sanjay Kumar**

**Sri. Dr. R. Surendra Kumar**

**Chairperson**

**Member (Technical)**

**Independent Member**

***Between***

SBMS Devasthanam  
Rep. by its EO,  
Sri. K.S. Rama Rao,  
Special Dy. Collector & Executive Officer,  
Srisailam,  
Kurnool Dt.

Complainant

**AND**

1. Superintending Engineer/O/Kurnool
2. Chief General Manager/O/APSPDCL/Tirupati
3. Chief General Manager/R& IA/APSPDCL/Tirupati

Respondents

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**ORDER**

1. Executive Officer, SBMS Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy Varla Devasthanam filed the complaint for re-categorization of 5 HT services. Briefly the contents of complainant are that :

HT Service KNL-146 (Water Services) is located at Pathalaganga in Srisailam. This service is for running pumping stations to pump raw water located at RTC Bus stand. The motors in pumping stage- 2 pumps raw water to filter bed

**DESPATCHED**

DATE

23/9

(KNL-722) at Yagnavatika. Stored raw water in the filter bed is filtered and distributed to Sraisailam Township for pilgrims/ devotees daily needs.

HT Service KNL-271 is located at Ganga Gouri Sadan, which is used for providing accommodation facilities for pilgrims/ devotees.

HT Service KNL-749 is used to provide lighting to temple.

HT Service KNL -759 is used to provide lighting to shops located at Siddaramappa shopping complex.

All the six (6) HT services covering Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy Varla Devasthanam , Srisailam falls under ' religious place' and are being used for religious functions and no other activities are carried out. But among 6 HT services,HT service KNL-749 is only categorized under religious places (HT Cat-IV (C )) and remaining 5 HT services are not categorized under 'religious places' though these HT services are purely meant for usage of pilgrims.

Devasthanam being a religious place shall invariably categorize under HT Cat- IV( C) and billed accordingly. But it is noticed from the CC bills, their HT services has not re- classified in the said category with revised tariff rates.

They have addressed letters to SE/O/SPDCL/Electrical/Kurnool and other authorities for correct categorization to avoid probable inconvenience to the devotees. But they received a reply that it is not possible to re-categorize the services for the usage of supply for sadans and guest houses of the temple. In Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) all the sadans, amenities etc., are categorized under religious places. The power supply by the temple is only meant for temple purpose which consists of various sadans, amenities provided

exclusively for the benefit of devotees in the temple area and therefore shall not be discriminated in any manner.

2. Respondents. No. 1 to 3 filed separate written submissions. But the contents are almost similar in nature. Briefly the contents of the same are as follows:-

There are 6 HT services pertaining to Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamivarla Devasthanam, Srisailam , Kurnool Dt. they are as follows :

HT Service No.	Short Name	Division	Sub-Division	Section	Volt age	Date of release of supply	Present billing Category
KNL -146	AE PH KNL SSLM WW	KURNOOL	ATMAKUR	SRISAILAM	11	30.01.1964	IV-A
KNL-271	GANGA GOURI SADAN	KURNOOL	ATMAKUR	SRISAILAM	11	22.05.2002	II-A(II)
KNL-696	E.O/S.B.M.S.DEVAST HANAM, SSLM	KURNOOL	ATMAKUR	SRISAILAM	11	20.08.2016	III-A
KNL-722	EO.S.B.M.S, DEVASTHANAM, SRISAILAM	KURNOOL	ATMAKUR	SRISAILAM	11	16.12.2016	III-A
KNL-759	EO.S.B.M.S, DEVASTHANAM, SHOPPING MALL, SRISAILAM	KURNOOL	ATMAKUR	SRISAILAM	11	05.07.2017	II-A(II)
KNL-749	EO.S.B.M.S, DEVASTHANAM, SRISAILAM (V) & (M)	KURNOOL	ATMAKUR	SRISAILAM	11	17.02.2017	IV-C

HT Service. No. KNL -749 is being utilized to provide lightening to the temple only. Accordingly billing is being done duly assigning the applicable HT Cat- IV ( C ) from the date of release of supply as per the retail tariff issued by Hon'ble APERC.

Complainant himself furnished the purpose of utilizing HT services but they are not suitable for HT category- IV (C) as per retail Tariff for the F.Y. 2020-21. The above said services do not come under the category of 'religious places', they are meant only for water work schemes.

There are 26 HT services in the name of EO/ Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) in Tirupati Circle, only 3 No's out of 26 HT services are categorized under 'religious places' which belongs to main temples of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam and the remaining 23 No's HT services are categorized under various HT categories by taking the purpose of supply as criteria as per retail tariff approved by Hon'ble APERC.

3. Personal hearing through video conferencing was conducted on 26.08.2021. Executive Officer of the temple present on behalf of complainant. Respondent No. 3 present and GM / Commercial/SPDCL/Tirupati present on behalf of Respondent No. 2. Nobody represented on behalf of Respondent No.1.
4. Point for determination is whether all the services of Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy Varla Devasthanam, Kurnool are entitled to be categorized under HT Cat- IV(C) ?

Para. 4.4.3 in Tariff Order for retail sale of electricity during F.Y. 2020-21 issued by Hon'ble APERC at page. 222 is as follows :

**“Category-IV(C) : Religious Places – HT**

**(Category-IV (E) : HT Religious Places in the Tariff Order for F.Y. 2019-20)**

**Applicability:**

This tariff is applicable for supply of energy to places of worship such as Temples, Churches, Mosques, Gurudwaras and Goshalas”.

As per the above said order, tariff is applicable for supply of energy to Temples, Churches, Mosques, Gurudwaras and Goshalas. Admittedly service No. KNL-749 is being utilized for the purpose of providing lightening to temple and it is already in HT Cat-IV (C) . According to respondents the other five (5) services were categorized as per their usage i.e.

Service No	Usage	Category as per Tariff Order for the F.Y. 2020-21	Billed under HT - Category
KNL -146	Running motors in pumping stations to pump raw water from Pathalaganga to pumping stage -2	4.4.1 –Page 221 – Cat IV (A)	Cat-IV (A)
KNL-271	Devotees accommodation	4.2.1.1 page 213 - Cat II (A)-2	Cat-II( A)-2
KNL-759	Lightening to shops at Siddaramappa Shopping Complex	4.2.1.1 page 213 - Cat II (A)-2	Cat II (A) -2
KNL-696	Motors in pumping stage-2 pumps raw water to filter beds	4.3.1 page .No. 217 Cat- III (A)	Cat- III (A)
KNL-722	Pumping water from filter bed to Srisailam Township for the usage of pilgrims.	4.3.1 page No.217 Cat- III (A)	Cat- III (A)

The first contention of the complainant is that all these disputed five services are being utilized for the facilities extended to pilgrimage and unless all these facilities

are extended, pilgrims would not incline to visit the temple. The temple has no financial support from Government, it has to maintain the temple with the donations given by the devotees. The CC charges have become heavy burden on the temple. The entire hill including township belongs to the Devasthanam and being utilized for extending services to the pilgrims, hence the usage of electricity is only for religious purpose. So, these five disputed services also to be categorized under 'religious purpose' only and not under 'commercial' and 'industrial purpose'.

As per the Tariff Order issued by the Hon'ble Commission, Category – HT –IV (C) is applicable for religious places i.e. for supply of energy to the places of worship. It is not mentioned in the Tariff Order that all the services which provides supply of energy for extending facilities to the places of worship shall also to be included in Cat- HT-IV ( C) .

This Forum is having limited powers. This forum can only competent to intervene when officers of licensee do not follow the Regulations or tariff orders issued by the Hon'ble Commission from time to time and violates any provisions of Electricity Act, 2003 and GTCS. This forum is not competent to expand the definition of purposes in the 'category of religious purposes' so as to include that the service connections utilized for extending facilities to the devotees will also fall under this category. The contention of the complainant that since all these five (5) disputed services are being utilized for extending facilities to the devotees who came over to have a Darshan of Deity is not tenable in the absence of any specific provision to that effect in the tariff order.

The other contention of the complainant is that all the services of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), Tirupati are billed under religious category, so the same benefit may be extended to their temple. Respondents have categorically stated that only 3 out of 26 service connections were under Cat -IV (C) and remaining are

under other categories. Complainant appears to have under wrong impression that all the services of TTD are under Category of religious purposes but in fact it is not correct. So this contention also is not correct and cannot be considered for re-categorization of 5 disputed services.

Respondents have categorized all the six services rightly as per the Tariff Order issued by the Hon'ble APERC. There are no merits in the complaint. The point answered accordingly.

5. In the result the complaint is dismissed.

Sd/-  
**Member (Technical)**                      Sd/-  
**Independent Member**                      Sd/-  
**Chairperson**

**Forwarded By Order**

*105 Hede Hede*  
**Secretary to the Forum**

**This order is passed on this, the day of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

If aggrieved by this order, the Complainant may represent to the Vidyut Ombudsman, Andhra Pradesh, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Sri Manjunatha Technical Services, Plot No:38, Adjacent to Kesineni Admin Office, Sri Ramachandra Nagar, Mahanadu Road, Vijayawada-520008, within 30 days from the date of receipt of this order.

To

The Complainant  
The Respondents

Copy to the General Manager/CSC/Corporate Office/ Tirupati for pursuance in this matter.

Copy to the Nodal Officer (Chief General Manager (O&M)/ Operation)/ CGRF/ APSPDCL/ Tirupati.

Copy Submitted to the Vidyut Ombudsman, Andhra Pradesh, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Sri Manjunatha Technical Services, Plot No:38, Adjacent to Kesineni Admin Office, Sri Ramachandra Nagar, Mahanadu Road, Vijayawada-520008.

Copy Submitted to the Secretary, APERC, 11-4-660, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Singareni Bhavan, Red Hills, Lakdikapool, Hyderabad- 500 004.