



ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Vidyut Niyantana Bhavan, Adjacent to 220/132/33 kV AP Carbides SS,
Dinnedevaram Road, Kurnool - 518 002, Andhra Pradesh.

Phones: 08518 - 294823,24,25,26

PRESS NOTE

Subject:- Orders on Leading kVARh Measurement in LT Metered Services.

The Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) has noted representations from consumers and Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) regarding higher electricity bills observed in certain Low Tension (LT) metered services following the installation of smart meters.

The Commission recalls that, in the Retail Supply Tariff (RST) Order for FY2019-20, APERC had issued directions to DISCOMs to unblock the leading kVARh feature for all applicable consumers. Following the said Order, the Commission also issued proceedings to unblock the feature, with due notice to the consumers concerned.

It has now been observed that the rollout of smart meters, which include a default, unblocked leading kVARh measurement feature, has resulted in higher electricity bills for some consumers compared with older electromechanical or static meters. The increase in billing is primarily attributable to higher leading reactive energy (kVARh), largely due to excess capacitor installations at consumer premises. However, the higher bills have been widely attributed to smart meters, creating a negative perception among consumers of smart meter installation.

The issue has been brought to APERC's attention by aggrieved consumers, and the DISCOMs have also requested that the Commission take a positive and pragmatic view of LT metered services.

After careful consideration of the matter, and keeping in view consumer interest as well as the need to ensure an enabling environment for the smart metering programme, APERC has issued Orders today with the following directions:

1. The directions issued in the RST Orders for FY2019-20 regarding the unblocking of leading kVARh for LT metered services shall remain **in abeyance until further orders** of the Commission.

2. The DISCOMs are directed to **withdraw the excess bills already paid** by consumers on account of leading reactive energy (leading RkVAh/kVARh) post-installation of smart meters.
3. The excess amounts so collected shall be **adjusted in the subsequent electricity consumption bills** of the respective consumers.

The Commission reiterates its commitment to safeguarding consumer interests while supporting the adoption of modern metering technologies to improve efficiency, transparency, and reliability in the power distribution sector.

APERC will continue to monitor the matter and will issue further directions as deemed appropriate after a comprehensive review.

Orders can be downloaded from the Commission's website: www.aperc.gov.in

(By Order of the Commission)

PLACE: Kurnool
DATE: 02.02.2026


Commission Secretary_{i/c}