

**BEFORE THE TAMIL NADU ELECTRICITY REGULATORY
COMMISSION
CHENNAI**

Order No T.O 1 - 107 dated 17-10-2007

Present :	Thiru S. Kabilan,	Chairman
	Thiru B. Jeyaraman,	Member
	Thiru R. Rajupandi	Member

**In the matter of : Applicability of tariff to Dhakshinachitra, a project
promoted by Madras Crafts Foundation.**

The General Manager of Madras Crafts Foundation represented the following:

- (i) Dhakshinachitra is a project promoted by the Madras Craft Foundation, an NGO for the promotion of art, craft, architecture and folk performing arts of Society of India.
- (ii) The project is unique 'Living Museum' that displays heritage culture of Southern States.
- (iii) They collect a fee of Rs.15/ from children. But no fee is collected from the children of Corporation and Rural Schools.
- (iv) They have following two electrical service connections.
 - (a) SC No.372 (New No.311) exclusively covers the areas where commercial activities take place. This service is being charged under LT Tariff V – Commercial.
 - (b) SC No.525 (New No.449) covers the area where heritage homes and contextual museums are located for the protection and promotion of Arts and Crafts. This service was charged under LT Tariff II B by TNEB.
- (v) Based on the audit objection that many National Festivals including Rajasthan Festival were held for sales promotion, adoption of LT Tariff V has been ordered and they were ordered to remit Rs.175574/-.
- (vi) Dakshinachitra provides hospitality boarding and lodging to the folk performers and artists during the celebration of major festivals of different States sponsored by zonal Cultural Centers. The Madras Crafts Foundation provides the facility at its cost.
- (vii) The other important focus of Dakshinachitra is to train a cadre of people in Art Management through internship programme. This programme is open to all

graduates with deep interest in art and culture. A large number of scholarships are also instituted for the course. They have well equipped education department to handle these activities.

- (viii) As the service SC No.525 (449) was classified under LT Tariff II B by TNEB after inspection. There was no violation subsequent to the classification under LT Tariff II B. Hence, the Audit objection may be withdrawn and the services be continued to be charged under LT Tariff II B.
- (2) While forwarding the representation to the Commission, the TNEB stated the following:
- (a) LTSC 525 connected to Dhakshinachitra is used for Heritage Houses and Museum.
 - (b) The observation of the Audit to classify the service under LT Tariff V was as per the tariff notification prevalent on 26.6.02 and the Commission's Tariff Order dt.15.3.2003 i.e not specifically classified under any category in LT Tariff I to IV.
 - (c) However, as SC 525 is used for educating school children on heritage and culture by collecting charges for minimum maintenance and also as there is no commercial activity, LT Tariff II B may be adopted and TNERC may notify the same.
- (3) As regards the point as to how the adoption of LT Tariff II B is justified when many national festivals are held for sales promotion, the TNEB have stated that the festivals are conducted in Dakshinachitra to revive and preserve the past glory and tradition of folk arts and that the Dakshinachitra provides only hospitality, boarding and lodging to folk artists.
- (4) In this context, the Commission considered the following:
- (a) Dakshinachitra is stated to be a Heritage Museum to preserve the tradition and culture and the folk art.
 - (b) It has educational value to the students of arts and crafts. **The area is served by a separate service connection.**
 - (c) There is a separate service in the premises to serve the area where commercial activities take place. This service is charged under appropriate tariff i.e. LT Tariff V.
- (5) Considering all the above aspects, the Commission, declares that the LTSC No.525 (New No.449) at Muttukadu be classified under LT Tariff II B subject to the following conditions:
- (i) The order will take effect from the date of issue.
 - (ii) The service shall not be used for any commercial activity even during the festival occasions.

- (iii) They can avail a separate temporary service connection for such contingency.

(By order of the Commission)

**Secretary
Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission**

To

The Chairman / Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Chennai 600 002