



DG/COAI/TIC/2026/2163

18 February 2026

Chief Engineer

Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDC)
6-1-50, Corporate Office, 1st Floor, A Block,
Mint Compound, Hyderabad – 500063.

Email: cgmrac@tgsouthernpower.org; cgmcomml@tgsouthernpower.org
cgmom@tgsouthernpower.org

Chief Engineer

The Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGNPDCL),
H. NO. 2-5-31/2, Vidyuth Bhawan,
Nakkalagutta, Hanumakonda, Hyderabad – 506001.

Email: ceopwgl@tsnpdcl.in; cgmcoml@tgnpdcl.com; cgmop@tgnpdcl.com
cgmop2@tgnpdcl.com; seopwgl@tsnpdcl.in

Sri V. Ramchander

Commission Secretary
Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission
Telangana

Email: secy-tgerc@telangana.gov.in

**Subject: Tariff Petition for Determination ARR FOR CONTROL PERIOD FY 2025-26 -
Objections & Suggestions**

References: Public Notifications by DISCOMs for Revised ARR, FPT & CSS

Dear Sir,

1. Telecom services form the backbone of digital connectivity and play a critical role in economic growth, governance, and social development. Reliable and affordable telecom networks enable access to education, healthcare, banking, public services, emergency communication, and digital inclusion, especially in rural, remote, and tribal areas of the State. Telecom networks operate on a continuous 24x7 basis and are essential for supporting Government programs, disaster management, and public safety. Electricity is a key input cost for telecom infrastructure such as towers, network equipment, and data facilities.

14, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, New Delhi – 110 001

tel: +91-11-23349275 fax: +91-11-23349276 email: contact@coai.in website: www.coai.in



2. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Telangana DISCOMs for not proposing any electricity tariff hike for HT and LT consumers for FY 2025–26, as per the recent notification. This prudent decision will help avoid additional financial burden on critical telecom infrastructure such as cell sites and data centres that provide essential communication services to a large section in the State, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, and will support continued network expansion, operational sustainability, and service affordability.
3. In this context, we humbly request the Hon'ble Commission to kindly consider levying electricity charges for the Telecommunication Industry under the Industrial Tariff category instead of the Commercial Tariff, as telecom services are essential public utilities and form the backbone of digital connectivity, governance, emergency services, and economic growth. Granting industrial tariff classification would further strengthen the sector's ability to deliver reliable and affordable services across the state.
4. **Need for Classification of Telecom under Industrial Tariff:** At present, telecom infrastructure in Telangana is billed under Commercial / Non-Industrial electricity tariffs, which imposes a heavy cost burden on a sector that provides essential and uninterrupted services. Commercial tariffs are not aligned with the operating nature of telecom networks, which function round the clock and are required to support Government-led digital initiatives and essential public services across the State.
5. There is a strong need to align electricity tariff policy with the infrastructure-oriented nature of telecom operations. Classification of telecom services and infrastructure under the **Industrial tariff category** will help reduce operating costs, support faster rollout of 4G/5G networks, and improve digital connectivity across Telangana.
6. Telecom services have been recognized as infrastructure and industry at the national level. Other States such as Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh have already extended Industrial electricity tariffs to telecom infrastructure, demonstrating that such classification is practical and beneficial.
 - a. **Rationale for Industrial Tariff Classification:** The Government of India has recognized telecom services and telecom infrastructure as part of the national infrastructure framework and industry- Telecom is treated as an industry for investment, financing, and development purposes, and requires continuous power supply similar to other industrial infrastructure. This recognition highlights the need for electricity tariffs that reflect infrastructure-based usage rather than commercial consumption.
 - b. **Judicial and policy recognition of telecom as an industry:** Telecom services have been consistently treated as an industry based on their nature of activity,

14, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, New Delhi – 110 001

tel: +91-11-23349275 fax: +91-11-23349276 email: contact@coai.in website: www.coai.in



scale of operations, and role in economic development. Telecom networks involve large-scale capital investment, continuous operations, and structured service delivery comparable to other industrial activities. This supports the classification of telecom infrastructure under the Industrial tariff category.

- c. **Precedents from other States and benefits to DISCOMs:** States such as Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh have already classified telecom infrastructure under the Industrial tariff category. These precedents demonstrate that industrial classification is workable and supports sustainable growth of digital infrastructure.

Further, extending Industrial tariff to telecom in Telangana will also benefit power distribution companies through increased network expansion, stable power demand, and opportunities for additional revenue through deployment of telecom equipment on electricity infrastructure.

- d. **Statutory Role of the Commission:** The Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission has the authority to classify consumers based on the purpose of electricity usage and determine appropriate tariff categories. Telecom infrastructure clearly aligns with industrial usage patterns rather than commercial usage.

COAI requests the Hon'ble Commission to:

Classify Telecom Services and Infrastructure under the Industrial tariff category.

We trust our submission will merit the kind consideration of the Hon'ble Commission.

Sincere regards,

Signed on: 18-02-2026 12:52:41
Digitally Signed by:
Lt Gen Dr SP Kochhar
DG
COAI
Signature Valid From: 2026-02-16 10:14:25
Valid To: 2027-02-16 10:14:25

Lt. Gen. Dr. S.P. Kochhar, AVSM**, SM, VSM, ADC, KIGA

Former Signal Officer in Chief, Indian Army

Fellow IETE, Fellow AIMA, Member IEEE, Sr. Member CS

Director General

Email id: dq@coai.in

Encl. – a/a

14, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, New Delhi – 110 001

tel: +91-11-23349275 fax: +91-11-23349276 email: contact@coai.in website: www.coai.in