

The Joint Electricity Regulatory commission came into force for the state of Goa in July 2012 after the state government gave its consent to be a part of JERC in August 2008.

Prior to July 2012, for all consumers whose demand load exceeded 60KW (single or group), the Goa Electricity Department would create the infrastructure at its own cost and thereafter proportionately recover it from the beneficiary consumers over a period of seven years. Similarly, for consumers (single or group) whose demand load was less than 60KW, the department would release connections by creating its own infrastructure without passing on the burden of the said infrastructure onto the beneficiary consumers.

As per clause 5.12 of the JERC Electricity Supply Code Regulation, in case of the connected / contracted load of any new connection as submitted in applicable forms is 100 KVA or more, a separate transformer of adequate capacity shall be installed at consumer's cost. The space / room required for housing the transformer, substation, switchgear, meters and panels shall be provided by the consumers, free of cost, which is easily accessible to the Licensee.

A Normal Single Dwelling House / Flat has an average load of about 15 KW. A Large Bungalow / Villa would have a maximum load of 50 KW. In all such cases and in cases where the load is less than 100 KW, the consumers are not required to install separate transformer at their own cost as per the JERC regulation 2018, which was amended in 2018 at the request of the state government, wherein for consumers not to install their own transformer, the load limit was enhanced from 60KW to 100KW. The clause 5.12 is more applicable for builders wherein the total connected load of all the apartments / flats exceeds 100 KVA. In such cases, the builder will have to bear the cost of the transformer.

As per clause 5.10 of the JERC Electricity Supply Code Regulation, 2018, In all cases of new connections, the consumer shall bear the Service Connection Charges, that is the cost of service connection from the Distribution Mains to the point of supply, as approved by the Commission from time to time.

However, in order not to burden the consumers, the state Government in its tariff petition filed before the JERC, which became a part of the Tariff order, the Department agreed to give the cost of Service Line free of cost for the first 30 meters with a minimum service fee amount of Rs. 250 in case of single phase service connection and thereafter Rs 50 per running meter, beyond 30 meters. In case of 3 phase service connection, the Department charges Rs. 100 per meter beyond the 30 metres which is given free of cost.

Similarly for all underground connections, for single dwellings the government has recently filed a petition before the JERC wherein for a single phase connection, for laying the first 300 mtrs conductor the department shall charge Rs. 100 per mtr and for laying the conductor beyond 300 mtr length the department shall charge Rs. 25/- per running mtr for a single phase connection. For a three phase connection, for laying the first 300 mtrs conductor the department shall charge Rs. 300 per mtr and for laying the conductor beyond 300 mtr length the department shall charge Rs. 50- per running mtr for a three phase connection.

As per the clause 5.59 of the JERC Electricity Supply Code Regulation, 2018, Requisition for power supply to new or additional public street lights shall be submitted to the local office of the Licensee by the Municipal Corporation or Municipality or Municipal Board or Gram Panchayat or Local Body or the Government Department or any other organization responsible for maintaining public street lights (in context of public street lights herein after called 'local body'). The local body shall bear the full cost of arranging of power supply to public streetlights including complete fittings and brackets. In case, any special fittings are to be provided, the local body shall arrange for it.

As is evident from the above, the street lights are to be installed and maintained by the Local body. The public are not liable to pay for the installation or maintenance of the street light. However, in view of the fact that a lot of panchayats and municipalities in Goa are unable to afford the installation and maintenance of the streetlights or for that matter even pay the energy bills of the streetlights in their jurisdiction, the Goa Electricity Department for years now has been maintaining the streetlights installed by them, all across Goa and has even been paying the Electricity Bills of all such streetlights across Goa. The Goa Electricity Department has installed more than 2.20 lakhs energy efficient LED streetlights all across Goa and has been regularly maintaining them without burdening the municipalities or the panchayats, leave along the common man.