



**MEGHALAYA NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

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No. MNREDAEOI/2026/1987/131

Dated Shillong the 5th August 2026

OFFICE ORDER

Subject: Cancellation of the procurement process under EOI No. MNREDA/EOI/2026/1987/100 for empanelment of vendors under the CM Solar Mission.

Reference:

1. EOI No. MNREDA/EOI/2026/1987/100.
2. MNREDA communication dated 14.07.2026 seeking price justification.
3. Reply dated 15.07.2026 of M/s Samved Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd.
4. Proceedings and unanimous recommendation of the Empanelment Evaluation Committee dated No. MNREDA/EOI/2026/1987/1221 Date: 31st July, 2026.

Whereas the Meghalaya New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (MNREDA) invited bids under EOI No. MNREDA/EOI/2026/1987/100 for empanelment of vendors for design, supply, installation, testing, commissioning and comprehensive maintenance of off-grid solar inverter systems and hybrid solar inverter systems in different districts of Meghalaya;

And whereas the EOI contemplates an end-to-end turnkey obligation covering design, supply of equipment and accessories, transportation and last-mile delivery, installation, testing, commissioning, warranty, monitoring, servicing, grievance redressal and comprehensive maintenance for the prescribed contractual period;

And whereas the financial bids of the technically qualified bidders were opened and evaluated by the duly constituted Empanelment Evaluation Committee in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the EOI;

And whereas the rates quoted by M/s Samved Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd. for the 3 kVA, 5 kVA and 40 kVA hybrid solar inverter systems appeared prima facie to require examination under the EOI provision governing abnormally low bids, having regard to the age of the benchmark closely reflected in the quotation and the complete five-year quality, warranty and maintenance obligations;

And whereas, in observance of fairness and the principles of natural justice, the bidder was called upon vide communication dated 14.07.2026 to furnish a price justification;

And whereas M/s Samved Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd. furnished its reply dated 15.07.2026, together with an item-wise breakup of the rates quoted for the 3 kVA, 5 kVA and 40 kVA systems, and stated that the quoted rates included approximately 20 per cent profit;

And whereas the Committee considered the original bid, all supporting material submitted with the bid, the subsequent price justification, the relevant technical specifications, the official MNRE benchmark costs, the complete lifecycle obligations, inflationary indicators and the prevailing market and supply-chain conditions;

Now, therefore, upon consideration of the entire record and the unanimous recommendation of the Empanelment Evaluation Committee, the Competent Authority records the following findings:

1. Applicable provisions of the EOI

Clause 6.23.1 of the EOI expressly provides that “Abnormally high and low bids shall be rejected.” Clause 6.8 reserves to MNREDA the right to accept or reject any Expression of Interest and to annul the engagement process and reject all Expressions of Interest at any time prior to signing of the agreement.

Clause 6.10.1 further provides that no additional claim shall be made by the successful bidder towards logistics, freight, insurance or allied expenditure. The EOI also requires an end-to-end solution, compliant equipment, responsibility for quality and workmanship, installation and commissioning, local service support, grievance redressal, warranty and comprehensive maintenance for five years.

Accordingly, the quoted price must be commercially sufficient not merely for the initial supply of equipment, but for faithful performance of the complete contractual obligations throughout the five-year period.

2. Scope of the Committee’s examination

The Committee records that the decision is not founded upon any alleged absence of documents from the bidder’s submission. The original bid, the component and OEM-related material, the service arrangements and the subsequent price justification have all been taken into consideration.

The issue for determination is whether, after consideration of the complete bid and all supporting material, the composite fixed rates are reasonably capable of sustaining the prescribed quality, transportation, installation, warranty, servicing and comprehensive maintenance obligations for the entire contractual period. Submission of supporting documents does not, by itself, conclude the examination required under Clause 6.23.1.

3. Rates quoted by the bidder

The bidder quoted the following composite rates, inclusive of taxes:

Capacity	Quoted amount	PV array capacity	Effective composite rate
3 kVA	₹2,72,794	3,150 Wp	₹86.60/Wp
5 kVA	₹4,27,323	5,500 Wp	₹77.69/Wp
40 kVA	₹41,56,930.34	40,150 Wp	₹103.53/Wp

The above amounts cover the solar modules, battery bank, PCU/inverter, structures, balance-of-system components, cabling, earthing, lightning protection, transportation, installation, testing, commissioning and five years of comprehensive maintenance.

4. Relevant MNRE benchmark

The latest general benchmark displayed by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for off-grid and decentralised solar photovoltaic systems is the benchmark for FY 2021–22, issued vide Order No. 32/24/2020-SPV Division dated 18.08.2021 and amended on 26.10.2021.

For North-Eastern and Hill States, the original benchmark, inclusive of then-applicable taxes, prescribed ₹81 per Wp for standalone solar power plants up to 10 kW with three-hour battery backup, and ₹92 per Wp for plants above 10 kW and up to 25 kW with six-hour battery backup. The amended benchmark, issued without GST, prescribed ₹74 per Wp and ₹84 per Wp respectively.

The MNRE order expressly states that the benchmark included the total cost of the system, installation, commissioning, transportation, insurance, warranty/guarantee, monitoring and maintenance for five years. The benchmark is expressed in rupees per watt-peak and therefore provides a scalable per-Wp methodology for comparative price-reasonableness assessment by the expert Committee.

5. Close correspondence of the 5 kVA quotation with the FY 2021–22 MNRE benchmark

The 5 kVA system comprises a 5,500 Wp solar array. Applying the amended FY 2021–22 MNRE benchmark of ₹74 per Wp gives ₹4,07,000. Adding 5 per cent gives ₹4,27,350. The bidder quoted ₹4,27,323—a difference of only ₹27.

The Committee therefore finds that the 5 kVA quotation bears an exceptionally close numerical correspondence to the FY 2021–22 MNRE benchmark. This is not treated as evidence of misconduct or impropriety. It is, however, a material commercial circumstance indicating that the rate submitted in July 2026 appears to have been pegged substantially to a benchmark fixed nearly five years earlier.

6. Passage of time and inflationary reasonableness test

The Economic Survey 2025–26 records average headline CPI inflation of 6.65 per cent in FY 2022–23, 5.36 per cent in FY 2023–24, 4.63 per cent in FY 2024–25 and 1.71 per cent during April–December 2025–26. Compounding these figures yields an indicative cumulative price-level increase of approximately 19.58 per cent.

The Committee clarifies that this exercise does not create or substitute a revised MNRE benchmark. It is used only as a conservative reasonableness test to determine whether rates closely reflecting a FY 2021–22 benchmark provide adequate commercial resilience in 2026.

System	FY 2021–22 comparator	Indicative 2026 amount after 19.58% escalation	Quoted amount	Difference below indicative amount
3 kVA / 3.15 kWp	₹81/Wp (3-hour category)	₹3,05,107	₹2,72,794	10.59%
5 kVA / 5.50 kWp	₹81/Wp (3-hour category)	₹5,32,726	₹4,27,323	19.79%

The above comparison has not been applied mechanically. It has been considered together with the bidder's item-wise rate structure, the fixed-price nature of the obligations, the maintenance allocation, current supply conditions and the public consequences of deficient performance.

7. Assessment of the 40 kVA quotation

The MNRE benchmark is formulated as a per-Wp methodology. The Committee has accordingly used that methodology as an indicative commercial comparator for the 40.15 kWp array, while taking into account the substantially larger battery bank, inverter, structures and balance-of-system requirements.

The bidder's effective rate of ₹103.53 per Wp is itself numerically close to the FY 2021–22 benchmark figure of ₹103 per Wp for a six-hour battery-backed system. The Committee does not treat that figure as a mechanically binding rate for every capacity. It treats the close numerical correspondence as a relevant indicator that the price structure continues to reflect a benchmark fixed in 2021, notwithstanding the passage of nearly five years and the present cost risks associated particularly with batteries, aluminium, copper, freight and five-year service support.

The Committee further notes that the 40 kVA system involves 120 numbers of 2 V, 800 Ah VRLA gel batteries, a 40 kVA hybrid PCU with net metering, a 40.15 kWp array, structures, extensive balance-of-system components, transportation, installation and five years of comprehensive maintenance. The price must therefore be judged on the sustainability of the entire lifecycle obligation and not merely by multiplying the PV array wattage.

8. Five-year comprehensive-maintenance allocation

In the item-wise breakup furnished by the bidder, the following amounts were attributed to comprehensive maintenance for five years:

Capacity	Five-year CMC allocation	Equivalent annual allocation
3 kVA	₹5,900	₹1,180 per year
5 kVA	₹6,490	₹1,298 per year
40 kVA	₹17,700	₹3,540 per year

The Committee has considered the bidder's explanation and the possibility of internal cross-subsidisation among different components of a composite rate. Nevertheless, the express CMC allocations are nominal when viewed against the obligations involving preventive inspections, breakdown attendance, deployment of technical personnel, travel across Meghalaya, fault rectification, monitoring, grievance redressal, maintenance of service facilities, consumables and responsibility for performance over five years.

A bidder is free to structure its commercial offer, but MNREDA is equally duty-bound to assess whether the total price retains sufficient financial capacity to discharge all lifecycle obligations without affecting quality, performance or continuity of service.

9. Consideration of the bidder's statement regarding profit

The Committee has duly considered the bidder's statement that the rates include approximately 20 per cent profit. The stated margin, however, cannot be determinative by itself. The relevant inquiry under Clause 6.23.1 is whether the composite fixed rate remains commercially sustainable after meeting all component, logistics, installation, warranty, manpower and maintenance obligations throughout the five-year period.

The bidder's assurance has therefore been considered, but it does not sufficiently dispel the Committee's concerns arising from the close correspondence with the FY 2021–22 benchmark, the lapse of nearly five years, the nominal CMC allocations and the prevailing cost volatility.

10. Prevailing market and supply-chain risks

The Committee has also taken note of current market intelligence showing upward pressure on battery-storage costs arising from increases in lithium, copper and aluminium prices, withdrawal of export incentives by major suppliers and geopolitical disruption associated with the conflict involving Iran. Publicly reported industry experience indicates that aggressively priced battery-storage projects

have faced viability concerns and that earlier supplier price commitments have, in some cases, not been honoured.

The Committee has further taken note of disruption in global aluminium and shipping markets, which has increased costs associated with solar-module frames, mounting rails, clamps, structures, freight and logistics. These circumstances are not treated as an independent or sole ground for rejection; they corroborate the need for caution where a fixed five-year quotation appears materially anchored to a benchmark issued in 2021.

11. Risk to quality and successful implementation

The Committee does not record that the bidder has supplied, or necessarily intends to supply, substandard equipment. The finding is prospective and preventive.

Where the composite fixed rate does not provide adequate commercial resilience, financial pressure during execution may reasonably result in substitution with lower-cost components, compromise in workmanship, inadequate deployment of service personnel, delayed fault rectification, reduction in preventive maintenance, inability to maintain local service facilities, delay in supply and commissioning, requests for relaxation of contractual obligations, premature withdrawal or partial or complete abandonment of the project.

The CM Solar Mission is intended to provide reliable energy systems to households, schools, health facilities, businesses and public institutions. MNREDA is not required to wait until deterioration in quality, default or abandonment actually occurs. It is entitled and duty-bound to prevent a reasonably foreseeable execution risk before committing public funds and exposing beneficiaries to disruption.

12. Unanimous conclusion of the Empanelment Evaluation Committee

After considering the complete bid, all supporting documents, the clarification dated 15.07.2026, the official MNRE benchmark, the passage of time, inflationary indicators, the CMC allocation, prevailing market circumstances and the complete five-year obligations, the Empanelment Evaluation Committee unanimously concluded that:

- (1) the 5 kVA quotation bears an exceptionally close numerical correspondence to the FY 2021–22 MNRE benchmark despite the passage of nearly five years;
- (2) the inflationary reasonableness test materially reinforces concern regarding the sustainability of the 3 kVA and 5 kVA fixed rates;
- (3) the per-Wp methodology and the bidder's own rate structure demonstrate that the 40 kVA price also requires assessment against the age of the benchmark and the present lifecycle cost of its substantially larger battery bank and service obligations;
- (4) the five-year CMC allocations are disproportionately low when considered against the continuing maintenance, manpower, travel, service-centre and fault-rectification obligations;
- (5) prevailing volatility in batteries, metals, freight and renewable-energy supply chains increases the execution risk attached to the quoted fixed rates;
- (6) the bidder's statement regarding approximately 20 per cent profit, though duly considered, does not sufficiently dispel the Committee's concerns regarding lifecycle sustainability;

- (7) the quoted rates do not provide reasonable commercial assurance that the complete contractual scope can be discharged for five years without an unacceptable risk to quality, maintenance, timely completion and continuity of service; and
- (8) acceptance of the rates would expose MNREDA, the Government and the beneficiaries of the CM Solar Mission to a material risk of deficient performance, compromise in quality and possible non-completion or abandonment.

The Committee accordingly and unanimously found the relevant quoted rates to be abnormally low and commercially unsustainable for the complete contractual scope within the meaning and purpose of Clause 6.23.1 of the EOI.

ORDER

1. The price justification dated 15.07.2026 submitted by M/s Samved Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd., together with the original bid and all supporting documents, has been duly considered.
2. The explanation furnished does not provide sufficient commercial assurance that the complete contractual obligations can be sustainably discharged at the quoted fixed rates throughout the five-year contractual period.
3. The relevant financial bids of M/s Samved Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd. are accordingly rejected as abnormally low and commercially unsustainable under Clause 6.23.1 of the EOI.
4. Clause 6.24.1 prescribes selection on the basis of the lowest price. Once the L1 rates are rejected under the express abnormally-low-bid provision, proceeding by adopting or negotiating an alternate rate outside the prescribed competitive framework would alter the basis on which the bidders participated. Fresh competitive price discovery is therefore necessary.
5. The EOI is an integrated statewide empanelment process. The Committee has unanimously recommended that partial continuation after rejection of the core L1 rates would not provide a coherent, viable and sustainable basis for implementation of the Mission.
6. Accordingly, in exercise of the power expressly reserved under Clause 6.8 of the EOI, the engagement and empanelment process initiated under EOI No. MNREDA/EOI/2026/1987/100 is hereby annulled, and all Expressions of Interest received pursuant thereto are rejected.
7. No Letter of Award shall be issued and no agreement shall be executed pursuant to the present procurement process.
8. The Earnest Money Deposits of the participating bidders shall be released in accordance with the terms of the EOI and the applicable procedure.
9. This is a commercial procurement decision taken in public interest to protect quality, reliable implementation, lifecycle performance, beneficiaries and public funds. It shall not, by itself, constitute blacklisting, debarment or a finding of fraud, misrepresentation or misconduct against any participating bidder.
10. MNREDA shall take necessary steps for fresh competitive procurement in accordance with law and the requirements of the CM Solar Mission.

Ordered accordingly.



Director, MNREDA

No. MNREDAEOI/2026/1987/131.-A.

Dated Shillong the 5th August 2026

Copy forwarded to:

1. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Power Department for information.
2. All Members of the Department Purchase Committee.
3. All Members of the Technical Evaluation Committee.
4. The Finance Department, Government of Meghalaya, for information.
5. All participating bidders, for information.
6. The Director of Information and Public Relations, Meghalaya, for publication, if required.
7. The office file / guard file.


Director, MNREDA