

March 2026

Government of India issues the draft Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) Amendment Regulations, 2026 for stakeholder consultation

The Central Electricity Authority (“CEA”), on February 23, 2026, has released the Draft CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) Amendment Regulations, 2026 (“**Draft Regulations**”). CEA has proposed amendments to Regulation 4 (*Types of Meters*) and Regulation 7 (*Location of Meters*) of the CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006 (“**Principal Regulations**”). These amendments further the ongoing policy push towards smart metering and advanced metering infrastructure (“**AMI**”) and refine the metering framework under the Principal Regulations.

Stakeholders have been invited to submit their comments on the Draft Regulations by March 26, 2026.

Salient features

Expansion of smart meter and AMI requirements

The Draft Regulations propose to add 2 (two) new provisos to Regulation 4 (1) (b) of the Principal Regulations. These include the following:

1. AMI must support pre-payment functionality and must be interoperable in accordance with the guidelines issued by the CEA; and
2. smart meters of relevant Indian Standard with an accuracy class of 1.0/0.5S will function as interface meters for open access consumers at voltage levels not exceeding 650 (six hundred and fifty) volts.

Revised location of interface meters for open access consumers

The Draft Regulations also propose the following amendments to Regulation 7 (1) (a) by modifying the provisions relating to interface meters for open access consumers:

1. for consumers directly connected to inter-State transmission systems or intra-State transmission systems or distribution system and permitted open access at voltage levels exceeding 650 (six hundred and fifty) volts, the main meter and the check meter will be at the consumer premises. The standby meter will be either on separate instrument transformers at the consumer premises or at the licensee’s sub-station, as mutually agreed; and
2. a new category has been introduced for open access consumers at voltage levels not exceeding 650 (six hundred and fifty) volts. Under this category, the main meter and check meter must be installed at the consumer premises.

Conclusion

The Draft Regulations seek to modernise the metering infrastructure by making the existing smart metering rollout more robust. It will also address the issue of non-payment and boost revenue collection. At the same time, interoperability will bring in healthy competition between vendors. The Draft Regulations provide an opportunity to stakeholders including open access consumers to submit comments in respect of their network planning and finalisation of structural plans.

Electricity and Power Practice

JSA is the leading national practice in the power sector – conventional and non-conventional. JSA provides legal services at all stages of the value chain in the sector - across the spectrum of contractual, commercial, policy, regulatory and legal issues. We represent clients in all segments: generation, transmission, distribution and trading. JSA serves its clients by transaction-specific integrated teams across various locations and practice areas (Banking & Finance, Mergers & Acquisition and Private Equity, Projects and project related contracting, Dispute Resolution, Taxation, Regulatory proceedings and Policy advisory).

JSA has been regularly engaged in; (a) providing policy advice to Governments of Bangladesh and Maldives, as also the Government of India besides various Indian states. Also, JSA partners have presented expert testimony to the Parliamentary Standing Committees and the Forum of Regulators on challenges faced by the power sector and proposed legislative and policy changes, development financial institutions like the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, DfID, USAID regulatory authorities and industry bodies; (b) advising project developers, investors, suppliers and contractors on commercial / transactional issues and all aspects of licensing, market structures, competition, performance standards and tariffs; (c) advising financial institutions and borrowers in relation to financing transactions; (d) Advising clients on sustainable development issues like clean development mechanism and environmental compliances; and (e) specialised dispute resolution.

This Prism has been prepared by:



Anupam Varma
Partner



Shivali Rawat
Associate



19 Practices and
40 Ranked Lawyers



7 Ranked Practices,
21 Ranked Lawyers



15 Practices and
20 Ranked Lawyers



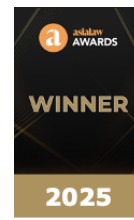
13 Practices and
49 Ranked Lawyers



20 Practices and
24 Ranked Lawyers



8 Practices and
10 Ranked Lawyers
Highly Recommended in 5 Cities



**Regional Legal Expertise Awards
(APAC) of the Year**
Energy Firm Competition/
Antitrust Firm



Among Best Overall
Law Firms in India and
14 Ranked Practices



Recognised in World's 100 best
competition practices of 2026



Ranked Among Top 5 Law Firms in
India for ESG Practice

9 winning Deals in
IBLJ Deals of the Year

15 A List Lawyers in
IBLJ A-List – 2026



Asia M&A Ranking
2025 – Tier 1

For more details, please contact km@jsalaw.com

www.jsalaw.com



Ahmedabad | Bengaluru | Chennai | Gurugram | Hyderabad | Mumbai | New Delhi



This Prism is not an advertisement or any form of solicitation and should not be construed as such. This Prism has been prepared for general information purposes only. Nothing in this Prism constitutes professional advice or a legal opinion. You should obtain appropriate professional advice before making any business, legal or other decisions. JSA and the authors of this Prism disclaim all and any liability to any person who takes any decision based on this publication.

Copyright © 2026 JSA | all rights reserved