

# Relief for T'gana as HC stays Centre's order on power dues

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issuing the said order. The court also directed the Centre not to take any coercive action against Telangana power utilities.

A bench comprising Justice P Naveen Rao and Justice J Sreenivas Rao heard a writ petition filed by Special Chief Secretary to Telangana



government Sunil Sharma, expressing his dissatisfaction with the action of the Secretary to the Ministry of Energy, in issuing the order dated August 29, 2022, under Section 92 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. In its order, the Centre directed the Telangana

government to pay the due amount of Rs 3,441.78 crore towards the principal amount and Rs 3,315.14 crore towards the late payment surcharge to the AP government within a time frame of 30 days.

Dushyant Dave, senior counsel representing Telangana power utilities, informed the court that the concerns emerg-

ing from the AP Reorganisation Act should have been examined and debated before the apex body, the Southern Regional Council, which was not done. The AP government has benefited from the Centre's contested decree since the AP government assisted the Centre in electing the president and vice-president, he said.

"AP and TS are two children born of bifurcation, and the Central government should not have demonstrated such a biased attitude against the Telangana government," he said.

CV Mohan Reddy, senior counsel appearing for the AP Power Discoms, expressed regret over the non-payment of RS 7,000 crore as the nonpay-

ment has pushed the AP Power Discoms into into dire straits.

Surya Karan Reddy, Additional Solicitor General for the Central government, briefed the court that the AP Power Discoms supplied power to Telangana due to the Centre's intervention. As a result, the Central government has the authority to issue such an order.

BUSINESS STANDARD

## Solar projects awarded before duty change allowed cost pass-through

SHREYA JAI  
New Delhi, 28 September

Solar power projects awarded before the basic customs duty (BCD) on imported equipment kicked in have been allowed by the government to pass on the additional cost of procuring expensive cells and modules.

The government imposed

25 per cent basic Customs duty (BCD) on imported solar cells and 40 per cent on imported modules from April 2022 to support domestic manufacturing.

The 'change in law' would help earlier bid projects pass on the additional cost of the solar cells and modules imported under the BCD regime.