

14.0 Settlement of Disputes

If any dispute or difference of any kind whatsoever shall arise between BHEL and the Supplier/Vendor, arising out of the contract for the performance of the work whether during the progress of contract termination, abandonment or breach of the contract, it shall in the first place referred to Designated Engineer for amicable resolution by the parties. Designated Engineer (to be nominated by BHEL for settlement of disputes arising out of the contract) who within 60 days after being requested shall give written notice of his decision to the contractor. Save as hereinafter provided, such decision in respect of every matter so referred shall forthwith be given effect to by the Supplier/Vendor who shall proceed with the work with all due diligence, whether he or BHEL desires to resolve the dispute as hereinafter provided or not.

If after the Designated Engineer has given written notice of this decision to the party and no intention to pursue the dispute has been communicated to him by the affected party within 30 days from the receipt of such notice, the said decision shall become final and binding on the parties. In the event the Supplier/Vendor being dissatisfied with any such decision or if amicable settlement cannot be reached then all such disputed issues shall be resolved through conciliation in terms of the BHEL Conciliation Scheme 2018 as per Clause 14.1

14.1 CONCILIATION

Any dispute, difference or controversy of whatever nature howsoever arising under or out of or in relation to this Agreement (including its interpretation) between the Parties, and so notified in writing by either Party to the other Party (the "Dispute") shall, in the first instance, be attempted to be resolved amicably in accordance with the conciliation procedure as per BHEL Conciliation Scheme 2018. The proceedings of Conciliation shall broadly be governed by Part-III of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996 or any statutory modification thereof and as provided in - "Procedure for conduct of conciliation proceedings" (as available in www.bhel.com) and also attached as Annexure A to this tender.

Note: Ministry of Finance has issued OM reference No. 1/2/24 dated 03.06.2024 regarding "Guidelines for Arbitration and Mediation in Contracts of Domestic Public Procurement. In the said OM it has been recommended that Government departments/ Entities/agencies are to encourage mediation under the Mediation Act. 2023.

Entities/agencies are to encourage mediation under the Mediation Act. 2023. The said Act has not yet been notified by the Government. Therefore, the clause "Settlement of Disputes" shall be modified accordingly as and when the Mediation Act 2023 gets notified.

14.2 ARBITRATION

14.2.1 Except as provided elsewhere in this contract, in case Parties are unable to reach an amicable settlement (whether by Conciliation to be conducted as provided in Clause 14.1 herein above or otherwise) in respect of any dispute or difference; arising out of the formation, breach, termination, validity or execution of the Contract; or, the respective rights and liabilities of the Parties; or, in relation to interpretation of any provision of the Contract; or, in any manner touching upon the Contract (hereinafter referred to as the 'Dispute'), then, either Party may,

refer the disputes to Arbitral Institution “**Arbitration & Conciliation Centre, Bengaluru (Domestic and International)**” and such dispute to be adjudicated by Sole Arbitrator appointed in accordance with the Rules of the said Arbitral Institution.

14.2.2 A Party willing to commence arbitration proceeding shall invoke Arbitration Clause by giving notice to the other party in terms of section 21 of The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Notice’) before referring the matter to arbitral institution. The Notice shall be addressed to the Head of the Region, Power Sector/ Unit, BHEL, executing the Contract and shall contain the particulars of all claims to be referred to arbitration with sufficient detail and shall also indicate the monetary amount of such claim including interest, if any.

14.2.3 After expiry of 30 days from the date of receipt of aforesaid notice, the party invoking the Arbitration shall submit that dispute to the **Arbitration & Conciliation Centre, Bengaluru (Domestic and International)** and that dispute shall be adjudicated in accordance with their respective Arbitration Rules. The matter shall be adjudicated by a Sole Arbitrator who shall necessarily be a Retd. Judge having considerable experience in commercial matters to be appointed/nominated by the respective institution. The cost/expenses pertaining to the said Arbitration shall also be governed in accordance with the Rules of the respective Arbitral Institution. The decision of the party invoking the Arbitration for reference of dispute to **Arbitration & Conciliation Centre, Bengaluru (Domestic and International)** for adjudication of that dispute shall be final and binding on both the parties and shall not be subject to any change thereafter. The institution once selected at the time of invocation of dispute shall remain unchanged.

14.2.4 The fee and expenses shall be borne by the parties as per the Arbitral Institutional rules.

14.2.5 The Arbitration proceedings shall be in English language and the seat and venue of Arbitration shall be in Bengaluru, Karnataka only.

14.2.6 Subject to the above, the provisions of The Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 and any amendment thereof shall be applicable. All matters relating to this Contract and arising out of invocation of Arbitration clause are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court(s) situated at Bengaluru, Karnataka only.

14.2.7 Notwithstanding any reference to the Designated Engineer or Conciliation or Arbitration herein, the parties shall continue to perform their respective obligations under the Contract unless they otherwise agree. Settlement of Dispute clause cannot be invoked by the Contractor, if the Contract has been mutually closed or ‘No Demand Certificate’ has been furnished by the Contractor or any Settlement Agreement has been signed between the Employer and the Contractor.

14.2.8 It is agreed that Mechanism of resolution of disputes through arbitration shall be available only in the cases where the value of the dispute is less than Rs. 10 Crores.

14.2.9 In case the disputed amount Claim, Counter claim including interest is Rs. 10 crores and above, the parties shall be within their rights to take recourse to remedies other than Arbitration, as may be available to them under the applicable laws after prior intimation to the other party. Subject to the aforesaid conditions, provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and any statutory modifications or re-enactment thereof as amended from time to time, shall apply to the arbitration proceedings under this clause.

14.2.10 In case, multiple arbitrations are invoked (whether sub-judice or arbitral award passed) by any party to under this contract, then the cumulative value of claims (including interest claimed or awarded) in all such arbitrations shall be taken in to account while arriving at the total claim in dispute for the subject contract for the purpose of clause 14.2.9. Disputes having cumulative value of less than 10 crores shall be resolved through arbitration and any additional dispute shall be adjudicated by the court of competent jurisdiction.

14.2.11 In case of Contract with Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) or a Government Department, the following shall be applicable:

In the event of any dispute or difference relating to the interpretation and application of the provisions of commercial contract(s) between Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)/ Port Trusts inter se and also between CPSEs and Government Departments/Organizations (excluding disputes concerning Railways, Income Tax, Customs & Excise Departments), such dispute or difference shall be taken up by either party for resolution through AMRCD (Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of CPSEs Disputes) as mentioned in DPE OM No. 05/0003/2019-FTS-10937 dated 14-12-2022 as amended from time to time.