

## <u>Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum, Kalyan Zone</u> Behind "Tejashree", Jahangir Meherwanji Road, Kalyan (West) 421301 Ph– 2210707, Fax – 2210707, E-mail : cgrfkalyan@mahadiscom.in

## IN THE MATTER OF GRIEVANCE NO. K/E/492/578 OF 2011-2012 OF M/S. MAHESH INDUSTRIES, VASAI (EAST) REGISTERED WITH CONSUMER GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL FORUM KALYAN ZONE, KALYAN ABOUT EXCESSIVE BILLING.

M/s. Mahesh Industries, Gala No. 16, Sadanand Raut Industrial Estate, Chinchpada, Vasai (East), Dist. : Thane – 401 208 <u>Versus</u>

Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited through its Dy. Executive Engineer Vasai Road (East) Sub-Dn. Vasai, Dist. Thane. (Here-in-after referred as licensee)

 Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum has been established under "Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum & Ombudsman) Regulation 2006" to redress the grievances of consumers. This regulation has been made by the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission vide powers conferred on it by Section 181 read with sub-section 5 to 7 of section 42 of the Electricity Act, 2003. (36 of 2003).

2) The consumer is a L.T. consumer of the licensee with C. D. 54 KVA. The Consumer is billed as per Industrial tariff. Consumer registered grievance with the Forum on 10/02/2011 for Excessive Energy Bills. The details are as follows: -

Name of the consumer :- M/s. Mahesh Industries Address: - As given in the title

Consumer No : - 1)001890789885 – 54 KVA

Reason of dispute : Excessive Energy Bills.

- 3) The batch of papers containing above grievance was sent by Forum vide letter No EE/CGRF/Kalyan/113 dated 10/02/2011 to Nodal Officer of licensee. The licensee filed reply vide letter No. DYEE/VSI/B/1506, dated 05/03/2011.
- 4) The forum heard both the parties on 08/03/2011 @ 16.00 Hrs. in the meeting hall of the Forum's office. Shri Harshad Sheth, Shri Vinit Sheth representatives of the consumer & Shri M. S. Patil, Asstt. Acctt., and Shri J. P. Keni Sub-Engineer, representatives of the licensee attended hearing. Minutes of the hearing including the submissions made by the parties are recorded and the same are kept in the record. Submissions made by each party in respect of each grievance shall be referred while deciding each of the grievances to avoid repetition.
- 5) The consumer has taken electricity connection from the Distribution Licensee (DL) to the industry situated at Sadanand Raut Ind. Estate,

Chinchpada, Vasai (East) in the year 2003. It is averred while taking connection in 2003 licensee collected SD of Rs. 6,000/- and six months minimum charges Rs. 3,600/- however licensee refunded only principal amounts without interest therefore, the licensee is liable to pay interest on the above amounts vide chart enclosed. Consumer by letter dt. 23/11/10 claimed the amount as above but the licensee did not respond. Consumer moved the I.G.R. Cell but in vain, hence the instant grievance application to direct the licensee to refund the amount of interest vide chart enclosed.

- Licensee filed reply dt. 05/03/11 contended that amount of interest on SD / ASD is being refunded through the ensuing bills.
- 7) At the outset it is to be noted that licensee refunded the amount of principal deposits without interest. Licensee is under obligation to refund the amount with interest without delay. This Forum in many cases including Case No. 393 and 433 of 2010 filed by representative Shri Harshad Sheth clarified on this aspect. Therefore licensee can be directed to refund the amount of interest on refunded deposits immediately if not paid earlier. Consequently grievance application will have to be allowed.
- 8) Since large number of cases filed by the consumers from Vasai Circle this Forum was busy with those cases therefore delay is caused in deciding this case. Hence the order :

## O-R-D-E-R

- 1) The grievance application is allowed.
- 2) Licensee is directed to pay Bank rate interest on the refunded Security Deposit amount to the consumer if not paid earlier as per the directions given by Hon. MERC in case No. 93 of 08 dated 01/09/2010 within 45 days

and compliance should be reported to the forum within 60 days from the date of receipt of this decision.

3) The Consumer can file representation against this decision with the Hon. Electricity Ombudsman within 60 days from the date of this order at the following address.

"Office of the Electricity Ombudsman, Maharastra Electricity Regulatory Commission, 606/608, Keshav Bldg, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai 51".

4) Consumer, as per section 142 of the Electricity Act, 003, can approach Hon. Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission for non-compliance, part compliance or delay in compliance of this decision issued under "Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum & Ombudsman) Regulation 2003" at the following address:-

"Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission,13th floor, World Trade Center, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Mumbai 05"

Date : 27/04/2011

(Mrs. S.A. Jamdar) Member CGRF Kalyan (R.V.Shivdas) Member Secretary CGRF Kalyan

(S.N. Saundankar) Chairperson CGRF Kalyan