

.(A Govt. of Maharashtra Undertaking)
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Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum
"Vidyut Bhavan", Gr. Floor,
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Mumbai – 400078.

REF.NO. Member Secretary/CGRF/MSEDCL/BNDUZ/

Date:

Hearing Date: 31/07/2018

CASE NO.148/2018

In the matter of refund of tariff difference amount with interest

M/s. SHARDA EDUCATION SOCIETY

THANE, MAHARASHTRA (Hereinafter referred as Applicant)

Vs

Maharashtra state Electricity Distribution Company Ltd

Through it's Nodal Officer,

Thane Circle,Thane

 (Hereinafter referred as Respondent)

Appearance

For Consumer :- Pranab Shende, M/s. Strom Losunger Pvt. Ltd.

Representative for Respondent :- R. B Kore Add. Executive Engineer,Gadkari Sub-Divison

[Coram- Dr. Santoshkumar Jaiswal- Chairperson, Shri. R.S.Avhad -Member Secretary and Sharmila Ranade - Member (CPO)].

Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission, is, constituted u/s. 82 of Electricity Act 2003 (36/2003). Hereinafter for the sake of brevity referred as 'MERC'. This Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum has been established as per the notification issued by MERC i.e. "Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Consumer Grievance Redressal

Forum & Ombudsman) Regulation 2006” to redress the grievances of consumers vide powers conferred on it by Section 181 read with subsection 5 to 7 of section 42 of the Electricity Act, (36/2003). Hereinafter it is referred as ‘Regulation’. Further the regulation has been made by MERC i.e. Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission. [Electricity Supply Code and other conditions of supply Regulations 2005] Here in after referred as ‘Supply Code’ for the sake of brevity. Even, regulation has been made by MERC i.e. ‘Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Standards of Performance of Distribution Licensees, Period for Giving Supply & Determination of Compensation) Regulations, 2014.’ Hereinafter referred ‘SOP’ for the sake of convenience

This application is filed by the consumer for grievances against the Respondent company MSEDCL to correct the tariff and category and refund of the amount. The Applicant Consumer above named is LT (Low Tension) having following connection of MSEDCL and drawing Electric supply from consumer No. 000028040229/PC-0, BU; 4728 Gadkari S/Dn. Applicant is providing health care facilities and has secured the power supply from MSEDCL for the purpose of providing health care facilities. The power supply is connected on 29-01-2009 and since then the Applicant is receiving regular energy bills without any error in meter or any complaint from the representatives of the respondent company (MSEDCL), who use to visit, inspect and record the reading of the energy consumption of the electricity, for raising energy bills and the Applicant were paying towards the energy bills raised by the respondent company (MSEDCL) from time to time without any default.

The Tariff is made applicable as per Tariff order issued by the commission from time to time. As per section 62(3) Electricity Act, 2003, tariff is based on purpose of use. Section 2(15) of the electricity act provides that the consumer means any person who is supplied with electricity for his own use. Similarly section 43 of the act also provides that distribution licensee shall give supply to the occupier of the premises, Mr.Dhaval, is

running/operating M/s. Sharda Education Society is thus the end user of electricity supplied by respondent (MSEDCL).

Therefore, applicant claims that the Respondent be directed to change the tariff according to MERC orders which is applicable from 1st of June 2015. There the billing cycle of a consumer is different with respect to the date of applicability of revised tariffs, they should be made applicable for the consumption on a pro rata basis. The bills for the respective periods as per existing and revised Tariffs shall be calculated on the pro rata consumption (Units consumed during respective period arrived at on the basis of average unit consumption per day multiplied by number of days in respective period falling under the billing cycle).

In this application applicant prayed for redressal of the grievances in respect to the non-compliance of the tariff order issued by the commission for health care services and its refund for 24 months which is eligible and entitle to the consumer along with interest and cost.

The Respondent appeared and filed their point wise reply that the consumer is billed in LTII tariff and the supply date is 29-01-2009. As per commercial circular no. 175 dtd. 16.08.2012, the new tariff category LT-X for public services is come into force. The said tariff category is applicable for nursing home and various public services. Now, the said consumer has applied for change in category from LT-II to LT-X, vide their application dated 25.07.2017. After receipt of the inspection report for confirmation of activities the tariff is changed to LT X(B) with effect from August 2017.

It is further said that after verification of the activities, suitable change of tariff is applied from the date of application and as the activities prior to the application can't be ascertained, As per Reg.4.13(b) of MERC Sop Regulation the change of tariff shall be effected within second billing cycle on receipt of application from consumer and the tariff

shall be changed with prospective effect from the date of application. The premises was inspected and observed the hospital activity, prior to the inspection, we cannot change the tariff for the period prior to the application and as per proof of registration of hospital does not ensure that hospital started on that same day in existing premises.. The consumer's pray for refund by considering retrospective effect may be disallowed

I have gone through the contented of the grievances application and also gone through the point wise reply submitted by the Respondent. It appears admittedly that there is commercial circular no 243 of MSEDCL that as per MERC tariff order dated 26.06.2015 in the case no 121 of 2014 that the date of revised tariff is applicable from 1st June 2015 and will continue till further orders. In this circular serial No.3 the separate category for Gov. school and hospitals are come under LT X (A) and private and other category LT X(B) is made for other public services the applicability for this tariff shall be applicable to educational institutions such as schools and colleges, and Hospitals, Dispensaries, primary Health Care Centers and Pathology Laboratories and Libraries and Public reading rooms other than those of State or Central Government, Municipal Bodies, Zilla Parishads, Panchayat Samities or Gram Panchyat; all offices of Government/Municipal Bodies, Local Authority, local self Government, Zilla Parishad, and Gram Panchayat;Police Stations, Police Chowkies, Post offices, Defence establishments (army,navy and air-force),Spiritual Organizations which are service oriented, Railway/Monorail/Metro except traction, State transport establishments,; and State Transport Workshops, Transport Workshops operated by Local Authority, Fire Services Stations, Jails, Prisons, Courts, Airports (only activity related to aeronautical operations), Ports, Sports Club/Health Club/Gymnasium/Swimming Pool attached to the Educational Institution Hospital provided said Sports Club/Health Club/Gymnasium/Swimming Pool is situated in the same premises and is primary meant for the students/faculty/employees/patients of such educational Institutions and Hospitals.

For the implementation of this circular as per serial no 4 the field officers are directed to ensure that where ever the tariff category is redefined or newly created by the commission, the existing / prospective consumer should be properly categorized by the actual field inspection immediately and the data to be immediately update in the IT data base.

All the field officer shall sensitize staff about various aspect of the tariff order and give proper guidance to all the officers and the staff members working under them. These are only important guidelines and for the actual implementation, the filed officers are requested to refer the detail order of MERC of 26.06.2015 in case of 121/2014.

I have gone through the application filed by the consumer regarding grievances and also gone through the point wise reply of the Respondent. It appears admittedly that the connection of the electric supply of the consumer is covered under the educational Institutions that is in the category of LT X(B) and therefore they are entitled for the said tariff from 1st June 2015. Now, as per Electricity Act 2003, the limitation of recovery given only for 24 months. The Respondent is bond to give the recovery prior to 24 months of filing of case before CGRF. If we considered the MERC order which has given the conversation of tariff to the filed officer by sensitizing the staff appears to be the different from case to case. Therefore, at this juncture we have to see that the right of consumer is protected regarding refund is for 24 months from the date of application before CGRF. Hence, I found that the application made by the consumer regarding change of tariff which is already done by the Respondent to the consumer i.e. LTX (B). Now, question remains to decide is only about refund to be given and therefore there are two options before me are whether refund is to be given for 24 months prior to the date of application before to the Respondent about conversation of tariff or date of filing of the case before CGRF.

Therefore, the applicant consumer is entitled for last 24 months difference in the tariff as per LT X (B) excluding the period from the month when this tariff was changed by the Respondent from the date filing of this application before CGRF. As this amount of refund is out of the balance amount due to change of tariff therefore there is need to grant interest in the result, the representation is hereby partly allowed. Hence proceed to pass following order

ORDER

1. This application here by partly allowed.
2. The applicant is entitled for the refund of amount of 24 months prior to the date of filing this application to CGRF i.e. 13/07/2018. The period of getting tariff benefit from LTII to LTX (B) from date of conversion of tariff LTX (B) should be consider in this 24 months.
3. The Respondent MSEDCL shall do needful to adjust and refund the amount in the future bills.
4. Compliance of this order be made within one month.

No order as to the cost.

I Agree/Disagree

I Agree/Disagree

**MRS. SHARMILA RANADE,
MEMBER
CGRF, BHANDUP**

**Dr. SANTOSHKUMAR JAISWAL
CHAIRPERSON
CGRF, BHANDUP**

**RAVINDRA S. AVHAD
MEMBER SECRETARY
CGRF, BHANDUP**

The order is issued under the seal of Consumer Grievance Redresses Forum M.S.E.D.C. Ltd., Bhandup Urban Zone, and Bhandup.

Note:

- a) The consumer if not satisfied, may file representation against this order before the Hon. Ombudsman within 60 days from the date of this order at the following address. “ Office of the Electricity Ombudsman, Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission,606, Keshav Building,Bandra - Kurla Complex, Bandra (E),Mumbai - 400 051”
- b) b) consumer, as per section 142 of the Electricity Act, 2003, can approach Hon’ble Maharashtra electricity Regulatory Commission for non-compliance, part compliance or
- c) Delay in compliance of this decision issued under” Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (consumer Redressed Forum and Ombudsman) Regulation 2003” at the following address:-
- “Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission, 13th floor,world Trade Center, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Mumbai 05”
- d) It is hereby informed that if you have filed any original documents or important papers you have to take it back after 90 days. Those will not be available after three years as per MERC Regulations and those will be destroyed.