



Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum, Kalyan Zone
Behind "Tejashree", Jahangir Meherwanji Road, Kalyan (West) 421301
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IN THE MATTER OF GRIEVANCE NO. K/E/435/491 OF 2010-2011 OF
M/S. MEC ENGINEERS, VASAI REGISTERED WITH CONSUMER
GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL FORUM KALYAN ZONE, KALYAN ABOUT
EXCESSIVE BILLING.

M/s. MEC Engineers
Gala No. 7 / 8,
Vardhaman Ind. Estate,
Gokhiware, Vasai (East),
Dist. : Thane – 401 208

(Here-in-after
referred
as Consumer)

Versus

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)

- 1) 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-V. consumer of the licensee. The Consumer is billed as per Industrial tariff. Consumer registered grievance with the Forum on 28/10/2010 for Excessive Energy Bills. The details are as follows: -

Name of the consumer :- M/s. MEC Engineers

Address: - As given in the title

Consumer No : - 1)001590415304 – 61.50 HP

Reason of dispute: Excessive Energy Bills.

- 3) The batch of papers containing above grievance was sent by Forum vide letter No EE/CGRF/Kalyan/678 dated 28/10/2010 to Nodal Officer of licensee. The licensee filed reply vide letter No. DYEE/VSI/(E)/9686, dated 22/11/2010.
- 4) The forum heard both the parties on 07/12/2010 @ 17.45 Hrs. in the cabin of Nodal Officer Vasai Circle, Vasai. Shri Harshad Sheth, Shri Vinit Sheth representatives of the consumer & Shri Purohit, Nodal Officer, Shri S. M. Bangar, Dy. Ex. Engr. 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 Vardhaman Ind. Estate, Gokhiware, Vasai (East) in the year 1989. It is contended while giving supply in the year 1989 licensee has collected SD Rs. 1960/- but does not appear in the computer due to change over to Oracle System. It is contended on verifying F-1 register or any other evidence as per the directions of Hon. MERC licensee needs to refund the same and that consumer claimed the amount vide chart enclosed with interest but not refunded. It is further contended that licensee is supposed to refund the RLC amount from July 2008 onwards. RLC paid for the single phase connection since it is merged in three phase meter, collected RLC approx. Rs. 1,51,083/- is required to be refunded but not refunded so far with interest vide chart enclosed. It is averred in Feb. 2007 Jr. Engineer Shri Kapase visited the premises and took away the meter saying the meter will be checked and as per test report further action will be taken, however the meter was not replaced by new meter nor the meter was tested but surprisingly supply was permanently disconnected. Since last three years consumer is following this matter but licensee did not respond therefore the licensee be saddled with heavy compensation for illegal act and causing harassment. Consumer by letter dt. 19/08/10 claimed the amounts 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 S.D., R.L.C. and compensation vide chart enclosed with interest.

- 6) Licensee filed reply dt. 22/11/10 contending that amount of SD with interest will be refunded alongwith R.L.C. As regards alleged illegality in permanently disconnecting meter and seeking compensation, it is contended that balance arrears after P.D. is being appropriated alongwith the refund.
- 7) So far refund of SD in the event of zero display, according to the learned representative for the consumer verifying the F-1 register and Firm Quotation, amount is to be refunded as per the directions of Hon. MERC in case No. 93 of 2008. This Forum in many cases including case No. 396 of 2010 filed by representative Shri Harshad Sheth, referring the order of Hon. MERC as above clearly pointed out on payment of SD/ASD. In this context the licensee is directed verifying F-1 register, F.Q. or any other evidence in the light of the directions given by Hon. MERC to refund if not paid earlier, with R.B.I. rate of interest.
- 8) So far refund of RLC consumer pointed out that this amount was paid by the consumer to the licensee as loan in the difficult time of licensee during December 2003 to July 2006 @ 50 paise per unit monthly consumption. Hon. MERC in case No. 72 of 2006 clearly depicted methodology as regards refund of RLC. When the amount running in thousands i.e. Rs. 1,51,083/- was given in difficult days, licensee is under obligation to refund the same as per the directions of Hon. MERC and not as per the sweet will of the officials of the licensee. This Forum in many cases including case No. 393 and 436 of 2010 filed by representative Shri Harshad Sheth in detail pointed out on this aspect.

- 9) So far alleged permanent disconnection of meter consumer has not given particulars as to when, how and where and which meter number was made P.D. illegally attracting compensation. In the absence of any particulars on the above point it is apt to direct the officials of the licensee verifying the records in this context to take as per the provisions of Law, Regulation and Department circular under intimation to the consumer. In this view of the matter grievance application will have to be partly allowed.
- 10) Since large number of cases filed by the consumers from Vasai Circle this Forum was busy with those cases in addition to this members of the Forum had to hold sittings at Vasai also, therefore delay is caused in deciding this case. Hence the order.

O-R-D-E-R

- 1) The grievance application is partly allowed.
- 2) Licensee is directed to refund the amount of SD with R.B.I. rate of interest to the consumer 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) Licensee is further directed to work out the amount of RLC as per the directions of Hon. MERC in case No. 72 of 2007 and Ombudsman in case No. 39 of 2006 and if collected excess, to refund the same with interest within 45 days and compliance should be reported to the forum within 60 days from the date of receipt of this decision.

4) Licensee is further directed to take immediate action as per Law, Regulation and Department circular as regards permanently disconnection of meter under intimation to the consumer vide para No. 9 as above and compliance should be reported to the forum within 60 days from the date of receipt of this decision.

5) 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, Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission, 606/608, Keshav Bldg, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai 51”.

6) 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 : 03/01/2011

(Mrs. S.A. Jamdar)
Member
CGRF Kalyan

(R.V.Shivdas)
Member Secretary
CGRF Kalyan

(S.N. Saundankar)
Chairperson
CGRF Kalyan