

CONSUMER GRIEVANCES REDRESSAL FORUM;
MSEDCL NAGPUR (RURAL) ZONE NAGPUR
COMPLAINT NO. 147/2014

Shri Yashwant Mahadeo Vaidya
At.Gadegaon Po.Allipur
Tq.Hinganghat
District - Wardha.

Complainant

,,VS.,

1. Executive Engineer,
MSEDCL,O&M Division,
Hinganghat.
2. Executive Engineer/Nodal Officer,
I. G. R. C., Circle Office,
MSEDCL,Wardha.

Respondents

Applicant represented by 1) Shri B.V.Betal, Authorized representative
Respondents represented by 1) Shri A.V.Tupkar, Dy.Exe. Engineer Hinganghat (R)

CORAM:

Shri Vishnu S. Bute, Chairman.
Adv. Gauri D. Chandrayan, Member
Ms. S. B. Chiwande, Member-Secretary.

JUDGEMENT

(Delivered on this 13th day of January, 2015)

2. Shri Yashwant Mahadeo Vaidya, r/o Gadegaon Po.Allipur, Tq.Hinganghat, Dist.Wardha (hereinafter referred to as, the applicant) had applied to the distribution licensee MSEDCL (hereinafter referred to as, the respondent) for new connection to his agricultural pump set. It is the contention of the applicant that inspite of the fact that he completed all the formalities the respondent had not released the connection within the time limit prescribed under the MERC (standards of performance of distribution licensees, period for giving supply and determination of compensation) Regulations 2014. He approached the IGRC Wardha. The IGRC Wardha dismissed his application

vide order passed on under no.SE/Wardha/Tech/IGRC/6387 dated 29-11-2014. Feeling aggrieved by the aforesaid order, the applicant presented the instant application under the provisions contained in Regulation 6.4 of the MERC (CGRF and E.O.) Regulations 2006 on 08-12-2014.

3. A copy of the application was given to the respondent. The respondent was directed to submit parawise reply. The respondent submitted reply under no.EE/O&M /H'ghat/Tech/9018 dated 26-12-2014. The case was fixed for personal hearing on 12-01-2015. Shri B.V.Betal, authorized representative was present for the applicant. Shri A.V.Tupkar, Dy. Executive Engineer, Hinganghat (Rural), represented the respondent. Both the parties were heard.

4. It was contended on behalf of the applicant that the Panchayat Samiti, submitted an application for connection to his agricultural pump. He received demand note on 13-03-2013. Panchayat Samiti, Hinganghat deposited the required amount. He submitted the test report on 01-04-2013. In spite of the fact that the application was complete in all respect the respondent has not released the connection till today. So he is entitle for compensation as provided under the SOP Regulations.

The applicant's prayer was as under

i) The applicant may be awarded compensation as provided under SOP Regulations. The applicant may be awarded compensation of Rs.2.00 Lakhs towards the loss to his agricultural produce, Rs.70,000/- and 60,000 respectively may be awarded for physical and mental harassment, Rs.5,000/- and Rs.10,000/- respectively may be awarded for travel expenses & the cost of the instant proceeding.

ii) The respondent may be directed to release the connection immediately.

5. Shri Tupkar, Dy. Executive Engineer, referred to the parawise reply dated 26-12-2014. It was further stated that the applicant submitted the application on 16-07-2012. A demand note was issued on 13-03-2013. Panchayat Samiti deposited the required amount. He submitted the test report on 01-04-2013. To provide the connection to the applicant erection of L.T. line admeasuring 0.78 k.m. is necessary. His name is entered in the paid pending list of year 2012-13 under RHY. The applicant has not submitted any survey report of any competent authority. His prayer is not acceptable. The connections to the agricultural pumps are released as per the orders from the higher authorities and availability of funds. If the applicant wants the connection immediately, he may apply for connection under DDF scheme started as per MSEDCL circular no.4900 dated 12-02-2014. The connection will be released as per the seniority of the applicant. So the application may be dismissed.

6. The technical member of the forum submitted a note as under,

I have gone through the documents on record & submissions made by both the parties, it is not disputed that the complainant has completed all the formalities for getting electric connection to his Ag pump. However supply of electricity to agricultural pumps is carried out under various schemes such as SPA –PE ,DPDC, DDF etc . At present, there appears pendency of agricultural pump applications in Hinganghat Division under various schemes. The respondent stated that the work of laying HT/LT lines & T/F for supplying connection is entrusted to the agency & is being carried out as

per the seniority of the applications/applicants who have deposited the demand amount & completed the formalities in all respect.

The complainant is the beneficiary of Rojgar hami yojna, therefore Panchayat Samiti, Hinganghat has paid the demand on behalf of the complainant. His name is placed in the seniority list of the year 2012-13 under RHY scheme.

The respondent further stated that the works of paid pending list for the year 2010-11 & 2011-12 have been started by the agency M/s Dixit Enterprises, Wardha. The work of the above beneficiary has been entrusted to the contractor & will be completed soon.

MSEDCL issued revised guidelines for releasing of new agricultural connections vide CE(Dist.)/RE/Ag.pump/4900 dt.12-02-2014 which gives option to applicants to carry out work under DDF scheme by incurring entire expenditure. It appears that the complainant has not opted for getting done his Ag. connection early under the said scheme, hence his name is placed in the seniority list of the year 2012-13 as per demand paid by him.

In view of circumstances mentioned above, we can not held the respondent responsible for the delay in providing electric connection to the complainant's pump. The respondent shall provide the connection to the complainant's Ag pump as per the seniority list, otherwise it will cause great injustice on the part of other applicants who have paid the demand prior to the complainant.

Moreover the complainant's cause of grievance about payment of compensation for delay in giving supply will arise only when supply is given to him. In this case the

supply is not yet given. The complainant's prayer for compensation for delay in giving supply is premature, in view of the order passed by Hon'ble Electricity Ombudsman, Mumbai in representation No. 32/2010 & other representations where similar issues were involved.

In view of above I am of the opinion that the respondent is not responsible for delay in giving supply & any losses caused to the complainant. Hence in my opinion the complainant is not entitled for compensation.

7. We have perused the record. We have heard the arguments advanced by both the parties.

It is admitted position that the applicant submitted the application in the prescribed form. He deposited the amount as per rule. He submitted the test report. His name is also entered in the paid pending list prepared by the respondent. So it is clear that the application submitted by the applicant is complete in all respect.

Regulation 4.8 prescribe the time limit for release of connection, it reads as under,

4.8 Where the supply of electricity to a premise requires extension or augmentation of distributing mains, the Distribution Licensee shall give supply to such premises within three (3) months from the date of receipt of the completed application and payment of charges. The extension or augmentation of distributing mains includes the extension of HT, LT lines and augmentation of distribution transformer substation.

After hearing the parties and upon perusal of the record it reveal that the applicant had submitted the complete application. So he was entitle for connection

within a period of three (3) months from 01-04-2013. The respondents have not released the connection till today. So he is entitle for compensation as provided under Regulation 12 and appendix A item1 (iii) attached the said Regulations.

8. In absence of any evidence much less reliable and cogent evidence we are not inclined to accept other claims of the applicant.

9. The respondent can not deny binding effect of SOP Regulations. So the note submitted by technical member can not be considered in toto.

10. In view of the position discussed above we pass the following order, by majority,

ORDER

- i) Application No.147 of 2014 is partly allowed. The applicant is entitle for compensation from 02-07-2013 till the connection is released to him.
- ii) The respondent MSEDCL is directed to pay compensation @ Rs.100/- per week from 02-07-2013 to 13-01-2015. The payment shall be made within ninety days from the receipt of this order.
- iii) The respondent shall pay the remaining amount of compensation as soon as the connection is released to the applicant.
- iv) No order as to cost.

<p>Sd/- (Adv.Gauri D.Chandrayan) <u>MEMBER</u></p>	<p>sd/- (Ms.S.B.Chiwande) <u>MEMBER SECRETARY</u></p>	<p>sd/- (Vishnu S. Bute) <u>CHAIRMAN</u></p>
<p><u>CONSUMER GRIEVANCES REDRESSAL FORUM; NAGPUR ZONE NAGPUR</u></p>		
<p><u>(Nagpur Dtd.13th day of January, 2015)</u></p>		

CONSUMER GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL FORUM
NAGPUR ZONE (RURAL) M. S. E. D. C. L.
Plot No.12, Shrikrupa, Vijaynagar, Chhaoni,
NAGPUR – 440013

Email.id- cgrfnz@mahadiscom.in
cgrfnz@gmail.com

(O) 0712- 2022198

NO. CGRF/NZ/

Date :

Certified copy of order dated 13th January, 2015 in Case No.147 / 2014 is enclosed herewith.

Member-Secy/ Exe.Engineer,
C.G.R.F.(NZ)MSEDCL
N A G P U R

To,
Shri Yashwant Mahadeo Vaidya At.Gadegaon Po.Allipur
Tq.Hinganghat, Dist.Wardha

Copy s.w.r.to :-

1. The Chief Engineer(NZ), MSEDCL, Vidyut Bhavan,Katol Road, Nagpur.

Copy f.w.cs.to:

1. The Executive Engineer/Nodal Officer., O&M Circle Office, MSEDCL.Wardha
2. Executive Engineer,C.C.O&M Dn., MSEDCL, Hinganghat.
for information and necessary action.

Address of the Electricity Ombudsman is given as below.

Office of - The Electricity Ombudsman,
12, Srikrupa, Vijay Nagar,
Chhaoni, Nagpur-440 013
0712-2596670