

CONSUMER GRIEVANCES REDRESSAL FORUM;
MSEDCL NAGPUR (RURAL) ZONE NAGPUR
COMPLAINT NO. 157/2014

Smt. Vaishali A. Nasare
Sant Tukdoji Ward
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 5th day of February, 2015)

2. Smt. Vaishali A. Nasare, Sant Tukdoji Ward, 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 her agricultural pump set. It is the contention of the applicant that inspite of the fact that she 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. She approached the IGRC Wardha. The IGRC Wardha dismissed her application

vide order passed on under no.SE/Wardha/Tech/IGRC/6386 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 22-12-2014.

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/339 dated 17-01-2015. The case was fixed for personal hearing on 02-02-2015. 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 she submitted an application for connection to her agricultural pump on 09-03-2012. She received demand note on 29-03-2012. She deposited the required amount on 03-04-2013. She submitted the test report on 03-04-2013. In spite of the fact that the application was complete in all respect the respondent has not released the connection till today. So she 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 her 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 17-01-2015. It was further stated that the applicant submitted the application on 09-03-2012. A demand note was issued on 28-03-2012. She deposited the required amount on 03-04-2012. She submitted the test report on 03-04-2012. To provide the connection to the applicant erection of L.T. line admeasuring 0.06 k.m. is necessary. Her name is entered in the paid pending list of year 2012-13 at sr.no.04. The applicant has not submitted any survey report of any competent authority. Her 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, she 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 her 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 respondent further stated that the works of paid pending list for the year 2010-11 & 2011-12 have been started. The works for the period of April 2012 onward have been entrusted to M/s Rudrani Infrastructure under Infrastructure-II scheme. The works are started by the agency & 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 her Ag. connection early under the said scheme, hence her 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 her. 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. She deposited the amount as per rule. She submitted the test report. Her 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 she was entitle for connection within a period of three (3) months from 03-04-2012. The respondents have not released the connection till today. So she is entitle for compensation as provided under Regulation 12 and appendix A item1 (iii) attached the said Regulations.

CONSUMER GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL FORUM
NAGPUR ZONE (RURAL) M. S. E. D. C. L.

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(O) 0712- 2022198

NO. CGRF/NZ/

Date :

Certified copy of order dated 5th February, 2015 in Case No.157 / 2014 is enclosed herewith.

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

To,
Smt. Vaishali A. Nasare, Sant Tukdoji ward 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