

**Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd.'s
Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum
Nagpur Urban Zone, Nagpur**

Case No. CGRF(NUZ)/020/2007

- Applicant : Shri Vithoba Shamrao Barve,
At Ward No. 1,
Near Parshivani Bus-Stop,
Tahsil - Parshivani,
Dist. NAGPUR.
- Non-applicant : MSEDCL represented by
the Nodal Officer-
Executive Engineer,
Division No. II, NUZ,
Nagpur.
- Quorum Present : 1) Shri S.D. Jahagirdar,
Chairman,
Consumer Grievance Redressal
Forum,
Nagpur Urban Zone,
Nagpur.
- 2) Smt. Gouri Chandrayan,
Member,
Consumer Grievance Redressal
Forum,
Nagpur Urban Zone,
Nagpur.
- 3) Shri S.J. Bhargawa
Executive Engineer &
Member Secretary,
Consumer Grievance Redressal
Forum, Nagpur Urban Zone,
Nagpur.

ORDER (Passed on 13.04.2007)

The present grievance application has been filed on 23.03.2007 under Regulation 6.4 of the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum & Electricity Ombudsman) Regulations, 2006 here-in-after referred-to-as the said Regulations.

The limited grievance of the applicant is in respect of allegedly erroneous levy of meter rent which is being recovered from his energy bills at the rate of Rs.100/- per month.

Before approaching this Forum, the applicant had filed his grievance on the same subject-matter on 22.01.2007 before the IGRC (in short the Cell). However, no reply was given by the Cell to the applicant within the prescribed period of two months as per Regulation 6.4 of the said Regulations and hence, the present grievance application.

The matter was heard on 13.04.2007.

It is the submission of the applicant that meter rent is being recovered from the applicant in his energy bills at the rate of Rs.100/- per month. He referred to an order dated 30.12.2006 passed by this Forum in case no. 171/2006 and contended that the non-applicant had clarified in this case that no meter rent has been recovered from the applicant from May,2000. In spite of this, meter rent recovery has started from January 2007. He has requested that meter rent should not be recovered from him. He has produced on record a copy of his energy bill dated 10.01.2007 for Rs.1790/- in which meter cost installment of Rs.100/- has been included. His contention is that such a recovery is unjust and improper. He requested that the amount of

Rs.100/- per month being recovered from him towards meter rent in his energy bills may be stopped.

The non-applicant, on his part, has stated in his parawise report dated 05.04.2007 that no meter rent has been recovered from the applicant in his energy bills. What is being recovered is the meter cost of Rs.700/- as per MERC's directives and this cost is being recovered at the rate of Rs.100/- per month in seven installments from January 2007. This is not a meter rent.

He added that the applicant is in arrear of energy charges of Rs.1584=28 which are shown as recoverable in his energy bill dated 10.01.2007. Hence, a notice dated 20.01.2007 was issued to the applicant asking him to pay the energy bill amount of Rs.1790/- including arrear amount of Rs.1584=28. This is a 15 days' notice issued under section 56 of the Electricity Act, 2003. The applicant, in response, requested the non-applicant by his application dated 27.02.2007 to allow him to make payment in installments and, accordingly, he paid first installment of Rs.1000/- on 28.02.2007. It is the submission of the non-applicant that this indicates that the energy bill of Rs.1790/- dated 10.01.2007 was acceptable to the applicant.

He lastly prayed that the grievance application may be rejected.

In this case, it is clear that the non-applicant has started recovering the meter cost of Rs.700/- from the month of January, 2007 in seven equal installments of Rs.100/- each. This action of the non-applicant is perfectly correct. No meter cost was ever charged to the applicant in the past although his meters were changed. It is also crystal clear that no meter rent has been recovered from the applicant.

The applicant, it seems, is harbouring under a wrong impression that meter rent is being recovered at the rate of Rs.100/- per month from him in his energy bills. The applicant's grievance is thus misconceived.

It is also seen that the applicant has not paid amount of his current bills in the past with the result that an arrear amount of Rs.1584=28 came to be accumulated and it is shown as arrear amount recoverable from the applicant in his energy bill dated 10.01.2007. The reason put-forth by the applicant during the course of hearing for not making payment of the arrear amount was that he was asked by the Jr. Engineer concerned not to pay the arrear amount. The explanation given by him for not making payment of arrear amount is devoid of any logic and merit. The applicant will have to pay the arrear amount as well as the current bill amounts issued to him.

With the above observations, the applicant's grievance application stands rejected.

Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-
(S.J. Bhargawa)	(Smt. Gauri Chandrayan)	(S.D. Jahagirdar)
Member-Secretary	MEMBER	CHAIRMAN
CONSUMER GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL FORUM		
MAHARASHTRA STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION CO LTD's		
NAGPUR URBAN ZONE, NAGPUR.		

Member-Secretary
Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum,
Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co.Ltd.,
Nagpur Urban Zone, NAGPUR.

