

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

Case No. CGRF(NUZ)/68/2012

Applicant : Shri Dnyaneshwar N. Varhade,
At Old Mangalwari, Bhujade Mohalla,
Near Kawaduji Bhujade House,
NAGPUR – 440 002.

Non-applicant : Nodal Officer,
The Superintending Engineer,
(Distribution Franchisee),
MSEDCL, NUC, NAGPUR.

Quorum Present : 1) Shri. Shivajirao S. Patil
Chairman,

2) Adv. Smt. Gouri Chandrayan,
Member,

3) Smt. Kavita K. Gharat
Member Secretary.

ORDER PASSED ON 21.8.2012.

The applicant filed present grievance application before this Forum on 30.6.2012 under Regulation 6.4 of the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum & Electricity Ombudsman) Regulations, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as Regulations).

1. The applicant's case in brief is that meter was installed at his residence on 29.3.2011. At that time, initial reading was 1341. On this initial reading meter started. Thereafter, M.S.E.D.C.L. did not send bill and therefore bill

was not paid. The applicant received a bill Dt. 20.2.2012 on 20.3.2012 amounting to Rs. 12,030/-. The applicant complained at various times but his bill is not revised. Therefore the applicant requested to revise his bill.

2. Non applicant M/s. SPANCO denied applicant's case by filing reply Dt. 4.7.2012. It is submitted that M.S.E.D.C.L. Mahal Division had given the supply to the applicant since 11.4.2011. First electricity bill was issued to the applicant for 1620 units in December 2011. (Average bill of 8 months Rs. 9635/-). Reading for January 2012 and February 2012 was not available and therefore average bill of 200 units per month was issued. Meter reading of March 2012 was taken. SPANCO has given slab benefit of the period of 11 months for 2456 units & therefore amount of Rs. 9921/- was credited in the account of the applicant, bill was corrected for Rs. 14231/-. The electricity supply when commences, at that time initial reading was presumed to be '1' and current reading is 2457. Therefore Bill of 2456 units was issued. Applicant objected for this bill. At present Rs. 13042/- is due and outstanding against the applicant. Notice u/s 56 of Electricity Act 2003 was issued to the applicant for non payment of Rs. 10526/-. The application may be dismissed.

3. Forum heard the arguments of both the sides and perused the record.

4. It is initial complaint of the applicant that when meter was installed on 29.3.2011, initial reading was 1341/-.

Therefore whether initial reading was '1' or 1341 is the important point which goes to the route of the matter. During the course of arguments, possibility was imagined that it is also possible in certain cases that the meter first installed at the premises of one consumer and after his permanent disconnection same meter in some cases installed in the premises of another consumer. In such case, initial reading may differ from '1'. On this point, officers of M.S.E.D.C.L. during the course of hearing Dt. 24.7.2012 requested for time to trace the record of the meter to ascertain as to which was correct initial reading and the matter was adjourned on 30.7.2012 for final hearing.

5. Now, Nodal officer of M.S.E.D.C.L. placed certain important documents on record as per their letter Dt. 14.8.2012 namely 1) Copy of the meter reading photo Dt. 18.3.2010 and copy of CPL received from I.T. section, NUC, Nagpur in respect of meter No. 1675396 for the period from January 2010 to July 2012 from which it seems that above meter was previously installed to one another consumer Smt. Mehrunnisa Hamid Khan and same was P.D. during the period of July 2010 and August 2010 with final reading – 1246.

6. This important document produced by M.S.E.D.C.L. proved that Meter No. 1675396 was previously installed to another consumer Smt. Mehrunnisa Hamid Khan and same was permanently disconnected during the month of July 2010 & August 2010 with final reading 1246. Therefore,

it is clear that initial reading of the meter of the applicant was 1246 and not 1341 as claimed by the applicant, nor '1' as claimed by M.S.E.D.C.L. Therefore it is necessary that initial reading should be taken as 1246 and to revise the bill of the applicant accordingly without charging any interest and penalty etc.

7. Hence, Forum proceeds to pass the following order:-

ORDER

- 1) Grievance application is partly allowed.
- 2) Non applicant is hereby directed to revise bill of the applicant by noting first reading as 01246 and then to revise the bill in accordance with law, rules and regulations.
- 3) Non applicant to comply the order within 30 days from the date of this order.

Sd/- (Smt.K.K.Gharat)	Sd/- (Adv.Smt.GauriChandrayan)	Sd/- (ShriShivajirao S.Patil)
MEMBER SECRETARY	MEMBER	CHAIRMAN