

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

Case No. CGRF(NZ)/138/2018

Applicant : Shri Mohindarsingh M. Rawal,
Plot No. 8, Silver Estate,
Saw Mill Area, Lashkaribagh,
Nagpur-440014.

Non-applicant : Nodal Officer,
The Superintending Engineer,
(D/F), NUC, M.S.E.D.C.L.,
Nagpur.

Applicant represented by : In Person

Non-applicant represented by : 1) Shri V.R. Sonkusle, Exe.Engr.,
MSEDCL,

2) Shri Dahasahastra, SNDL, Nagpur

Quorum Present : 1) Shri Arvind Jayram Rohee,
Chairperson.
2) Mrs. V.N.Parihar,
Member Secretary
3) Mrs. Asmita Avinash Prabhune,
Member(CPO)

ORDER PASSED ON 22.02.2019

1) The applicant Shri Mohindarsingh Rawal is the office bearer of the house structure styled as "Rawal Apartments" located on plot No.8, Lashkaribagh, Nagpur-14. He approached this forum under clause 6.4 of the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum & Electricity Ombudsman) Regulations 2006 for redressal of the grievance regarding issuance of

excessive bill to applicant with consumer no. 410014294558 a 3 phase common connection on this said apartment.

2) According to applicant there was theft of electricity from the said common connection which is in the name of the Apartment with the aforesaid consumer no. and as such the Apartment is not liable to pay electricity charges regarding excessive bill for the month of May 2018. Meter was tested which was found OK.

3) The Non-applicant by a reply dt. 28.01.2019 denied the claim and justified their action and further denied that there was any theft of electricity by any apartment owner from the said common meter.

4) IGRC vide order dt. 12.09.2018 rejected the grievance application, against which the present proceeding is filed.

5) On 29.01.2019 when the matter was heard, it was agreed to verify whether the theft was through a common meter of Apartment or bus-bar and submit the report by holding spot inspection with due intimation to the applicant. The matter was then adjourned for further hearing on 22.02.2019.

6) On the adjourned date Shri Harbhansingh and S.D. Kapoor represented the Apartment owners, whereas on behalf of Non applicant Shri Sonkusle (EE) MSEDCL and Shri Dahashastra of SNDL where present. We have carefully perused the case record.

7) It is clarified that on 06.02.2019 joint inspection was held in presence of applicants and the copy of report is produced on record. It is obvious that both the parties are satisfied there was no theft of electricity from the common meter of Apartment.

8) It is stated that the applicant is in arrears of Rs.1,50,821/- till Jan. 2019. Since the cloud of doubt regarding theft from the common meter is now removed, the grievance of excessive meter reading falls to ground. The applicants are, therefore, prepared to credit the amount of arrears. However, they prayed for waiver of interest and DPC (Delay Payment Charges). However, this forum is not competent to waive interest or DPC in absence of specific provision in the Act, Rules, Regulations or Notifications. Hence, the said request cannot be considered.

9) The applicants requested to grant 5 installments to clear the arrears. This can be legitimately considered. As such 5 monthly installments are granted.

10) The applicants are directed to credit first installment of arrears of electricity bill as above by the end of next month i.e. March 2019 and shall continue to pay the subsequent monthly installments till entire arrears are cleared.

11) No order as to cost.

Sd/-
(Mrs. A. A. Prabhune)
MEMBER(CPO)

Sd/-
(Mrs. V.N.Parihar)
MEMBER SECRETARY

Sd/-
(Arvind J. Rohee)
CHAIRPERSON