

PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
SITE NO. 3, BLOCK B, SECTOR 18-A MADHYA MARG, CHANDIGARH

Petition No. 13 of 2021
Date of Hearing: 28.04.2021
Date of Order: 04.05.2021

Petition under Section 43 of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Regulation 5.1 of the Supply code, 2014 and other relevant rules and regulations as approved by Hon'ble Commission including 68, 69, 70, 71 and 72 and other relevant provisions of Chapter XIII of the Conduct of Business Regulations 2005 as amended up to date and the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 for directing the Respondents to render respective Domestic Supply Electricity connection to the Petitioners for their residential houses in the colony-Sunny Enclave.

AND

For passing any other relief in favour of the Petitioner as this Hon'ble Commission may deem fit in the facts and circumstances of the case.

In the matter of: Ranjit Kaur & Ors. Petitioners

Versus

1. Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. (PSPCL), having its office at the Mall, Patiala, through its Chairman-Cum-Managing Director.
2. Chief Engineer (Commercial), The Mall, Patiala.
3. Superintending Engineer/DS, PSPCL, Near Bus Stand, Patiala.
4. Executive Engineer, (DS), PSPCL, Patiala.
5. Assistant Executive Engineer, PSPCL, Sanaur, Patiala. Respondents

Present: Sh. Viswajeet Khanna, Chairperson
Ms. Anjali Chandra, Member
Sh. Paramjeet Singh, Member

Petitioner: Sh. Aditya Grover, Advocate

PSPCL: Sh. Gurchain Singh Banga, CE/ARR&TR
Sh. Deepak Gupta, SE/TR-2
Sh. Mukesh Kumar, ASE/TR-5
Sh. Lovleen Gupta AEE/TR-5
Sh. Gurtej Singh Chahal
Sh. Harpreet Singh AE/Sanour

ORDER

During hearing, the counsel for the petitioners submitted that there are about 150 houses and over 80 families are residing in Sunny Enclave

Colony, Devigarh (Patiala). The counsel alleged that the electricity connections to the petitioners have been provided by the developer namely Sh. Jarnail Singh and he is also collecting electricity charges from the residents at exorbitant rates posing as franchisee of PSPCL. The Commission notes that the counsel for the petitioners has not submitted any documentary evidence, such as receipts etc., to substantiate his allegations, which he may submit immediately. The counsel prayed that PSPCL may be directed to release permanent electricity connection to the residents of this colony, as an interim measure, on the lines of the decision of the Commission in P. No. 22 of 2020 and 48 of 2020.

The officer representing PSPCL submitted that NOC for development of colony with a load of 3717 kW/4130 kVA was issued to the developer in 2009. The NOC was valid for 3 years but the developer failed to erect the LD system. The developer got a NRS connection in 2006 for his office use having a load of 2.906 kW. The load was got extended from time to time by the developer and at present the sanctioned load is 144.86 kW. The officer failed to give any satisfactory reply to the query of the Commission as to how such a large load can be justified for an office of the developer and why this fact was not verified at the time of release of extension in load. Since the NRS connections with load above 20 kW are covered under contract demand system, PSPCL shall submit the monthly MDI readings of this NRS connection for the entire period.

The officer further informed that the said connection was checked on 5.11.2019 and it was found that the developer is illegally supplying electricity to the residents from this NRS connection. Accordingly, a penalty of Rs. 26.52 lac for Unauthorised Use of Electricity (UUE) was imposed. The officer submitted that an amount of over Rs. 80 lac is outstanding against the developer as electricity dues however when the department disconnected the connection, the residents started agitating by blocking the road and the connection was restored after intervention of local administration. This shows that the residents are fully aware of the illegal arrangement which they have made with the developer to get supply of electricity.

From the above it appears that the irregularities being committed by the developer were allowed to continue for such a long period which does not appear to be possible without the active connivance of the officers/officials of PSPCL. The matter needs detailed investigation and we direct the PSPCL

management to order enquiry in to this matter and submit Action Taken Report within one month of the issue of this order. The matter will be examined further after getting the enquiry report from PSPCL.

The petition shall be taken up for hearing on 02.06.2021 at 11.00 AM.

Sd/-
(Paramjeet Singh)
Member

Sd/-
(Anjuli Chandra)
Member

Sd/-
(Viswajeet Khanna)
Chairperson

Chandigarh
Dated: 04.05.2021