

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
FORUM FOR REDRESSAL OF GRIEVANCES OF CONSUMERS
P-1 WHITE HOUSE, RAJPURA COLONY, PATIALA
PHONE: 0175-2214909 ; FAX : 0175-2215908**

Case No. CG-66 of 2013

Instituted on : 24.05.2013

Closed on : 25.06.2013

**Sh. Manjit Singh ,
C/O Universal Enterprises,
C-66, Focal Point,
Patiala.**

.... Appellant

Name of the Op. Division: Comml.Patiala.

A/c No. 300060470

Through

Sh. Manjit Singh, PR

V/s

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.Respondent

Through

Er. Surinder Loomba, ASE/Op. Comml. Divn., Patiala.

BRIEF HISTORY

Petition No. CG-66 of 2013 was filed against order dt. 13.03.2013 of the ZDSC, Patiala deciding that the account of the consumer be overhauled on the basis of highest consumption recorded (i.e. 2702 units) after the installation of the new meter.

The consumer is having SP category connection with sanctioned load of 18.400 KW operating under AEE/Comml. West Sub-Divn. Patiala.

The energy bill amounting to Rs.2,38,300/- for the consumption of 38834 units (i.e.24838 units of replaced meter and 13996 units of new meter) was issued to the consumer on 12.11.2012. The consumer challenged both the meters. The meters were sent to ME Lab for checking. The ME Lab vide challan No.57/229 dt.26.11.2012 & Challan No.88/230 dt. 25.01.2013 reported that both the meters were O.K. as their results were found within permissible limits. The energy bill issued for 38834 units was on the higher side, so the consumer made an appeal in the ZDSC after depositing the requisite amount. The ZDSC heard the case on 13.03.2013 and observed that final reading of first meter was recorded as 167696 units at the time of removal of meter on 19.10.12. Further the consumption of 124856 units for a period of 12.10.12 to 19.10.12 and consumption of 25549 units for a period of 19.10.12 to 13.12.12 have been recorded. ZDSC decided that the account of the consumer for the disputed period i.e. 12.09.2012 to 13.12.2012 be overhauled on the basis of maximum consumption recorded i.e. 2702 units in the month of June, 2011.

Being not satisfied with the decision of the ZDSC, the consumer made an appeal in the Forum. The Forum heard the case on 11.06.2013, 13.06.2013 and finally on 25.06.2013. Then the case was closed for passing speaking orders.

Proceedings:

On 25.06.2013, PR contended that our factory remained closed from the last about thirteen months which is the disputed period. So the bill for this disputed period may be overhauled on the MMC basis and not on average basis.

Respondent contended that as per the ME report the accuracy of the meter was OK. Still the ZDSC while deciding the case accepted the meter to be fast and gave due relief to the consumer. Hence the ZDSC has rightly judged the case and the amount as charged is recoverable.

Both the parties have nothing more to say and submit and the case was closed for speaking orders.

Observations of the Forum:

Written submission made in the petition, reply, written arguments of the respondents as well as petitioner and other material on record have been perused and carefully considered.

Forum observed as under:-

The consumer was issued energy bill in 11/2012 for 2,38,300/- for the consumption of 38334 units. The consumer challenged the meters replaced on 19.10.12 & 13.12.2012 and the meters were sent to ME Lab for testing. The ME Lab reported that meters were found O.K. The consumer made an appeal in the ZDSC. The ZDSC in its decision overhauled the account for the disputed period on the basis of maximum consumption recorded in June, 2011 i.e. 2702 units. The West Comml. Sub-Divn. Patiala issued revised notice No.1347 dt.02.05.2013 for Rs.62,692/- as per the decision of the ZDSC.

Forum further observed that as per consumption data of the year 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, the average consumption recorded was 863

units, 944 units and 1460 units respectively and before 12.09.2012 the maximum consumption recorded was 2702 units. From the recorded consumption it has been observed that consumption of 124856 units (167696-42840) for a period of 12.10.2012 to 19.10.2012 and consumption of 25549 units for a period 19.10.2012 to 13.12.2012 does not seem to be possible, which was also mentioned in ZDSC decision. Further the premises of the consumer was checked by the Sr.XEN/West(Tech.), Patiala on 06.02.2013 and reported that the factory remained closed for the last more than one year. Forum observed that overhauling the account of disputed period on the basis of maximum consumption recorded (i.e. 2702 units) during the previous period is not justified because the average consumption of the consumer during the last three years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2010-11) varies from 863 units to 1460 units. Further the consumption after change of meter was also very less. The current energy bill issued vide No.50000 364270 dt.24.06.13 was also for consumption of 334 units only (874-540). Moreover factory remained closed for more than one year as per report dt. 06.02.13 of the Sr.XEN/West(Tech.), Patiala . So, in this case the jumping of the meter might be possible due to its erratic behaviour and such like jumping cannot be detected in the ME Lab while checking the meter. Further the consumption recorded before and after change of meter was very less.

Decision:

Keeping in view the petition, reply, oral discussions, and after hearing both the parties, verifying the record produced by them & observations of Forum, Forum decides that:

- * **The account of the consumer for the disputed period i.e. from 12.09.2012 to 13.12.2012 be overhauled on the basis of average of consumption of one year i.e. from 10/2011 to 09/2012.**
- * **Forum further decides that the balance amount recoverable/refundable, if any, be recovered/refunded from/to the consumer along-with interest/surcharge as per instructions of PSPCL.**
- * **As required under Section-19 (1) & 19 (1A) of Punjab State Regulatory Commission (Forum & Ombudsman) Regulation-2005, the implementation of this decision may be intimated to this office within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter.**

(CA Rajinder Singh)
Member/CAO

(K.S.Grewal)
Member/Independent

(Er.Ashok Goyal)
EIC/Chairman