

**CONSUMER GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL FORUM
KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD- SOUTHERN REGION
VYDYUTHI BHAVANAM, KOTTARAKKARA**

Present: 1. Smt.Laila.N.G,Deputy Chief Engineer, Chairperson
2. Sri. Sanjeev Koshy,Executive Engineer, Member II
3. Sri.C.K.Harikumar,Advocate,Member III

Monday 15th December,2023

OP No.74/2023

Between

Petitioner: Secretary, Manamboor
Grama Panchayat, Kavalayoor.P.O,
PIN-695144 Varkala Thiruvananthapuram.

And

Respondents: (1) The Assistant Executive Engineer,
Electrical Sub Division, Kadakkavur.

(2) The Assistant Engineer, Electrical Section,Vakkom.

ORDER

1. Grievance of the petitioner

The petitioner is a consumer under Electrical Section Vakkom bearing consumer number 1145300029, for the purpose of operating street lights under Manampoor Grama Panchayath (here after referred as Panchayath). The grievance is about an arrear bill amounting to 2,35,027/- on 2010 Panchayath paid Rs.15 lakh to the licensee, for installing meter for all street light. It is the duty of the licensee to install meter and issue current bill properly Panchayth have been paying the bills received in the office regularly without any fails. The allegation that Panchayath installed street lights on street main without intimating the licensee, is not true. The audit wing of the licensee wrongly assessed the installation of street lights. Issuing a bill amounting to Rs.2,35,027/- in the name of the inspection by the audit team is not just. The petition prays the Forum to quash the bill as the fault lies in the side of the licensee.

2. Version of the respondent

Manamboor Grama Panchayath area is covered by Kadakkavoor, Vakkom, Kallambalam and Attingal Electrical Sections under Electrical Division, Attingal upto September 2019. During September 2019 the sections boundaries were refixed by KSEBL and accordingly 3 transformers in Manamboor Grama Panchayath, which were formerly under Electrical Section, Kadakkavoor is transferred to Electrical Section, Vakkom.

During 2019, the audit wing of KSEBL observed that entire street lights installed under Manamboor Grama Panchayath under the jurisdiction of Electrical Section, Kadakkavoor is remaining as unbilled from the date of installation. As per the direction of the audit team and the Assistant Engineer, street light survey was carried out by an overseer of Electrical Section Kadakkavoor and reported that 108 street lights were installed under the above mentioned transformers. Based on the street light survey report, demand for an amount of Rs.85440 was raised for a period of 2 years as the date of installation was unknown. The matter was informed by Assistant Engineer, to the Panchayath authorities. But the Panchayath didn't respond. Since the above mentioned these transformers were transferred to Vakkom Electrical Section, Kadakkavoor Section Assistant Engineer transferred the arrear demand to Assistant Engineer, Electrical Section Vakkom. Since the Panchayath authorities didn't respond to the demand letter issued by Assistant Engineer, Electrical Section Kadakkavoor, one more demand letter was issued by Assistant Engineer Vakkom on 9/11/2021. The current charge of 108 lamps is being remitted by the Panchayath with effect from April 2021 onwards without fail. On an audit conducted by RAO unit of Electrical Division Attingal it is observed Panchayath installed 139 LED bulbs of 30 W and 8 nos of Mercury vapour lamps of 250 W which were remained un billed under Electrical Section, Vakkom. Hence another demand for an amount of Rs.117420 was also raised for current charge due to these lamps for the period from date of installation , is 8/2019 to 10/2020. Repeated reminders and monthly

demand notices showing arrear were issued to the Panchayath Authorities. Both the arrear demand is raised without interest due since the energy is consumed Panchayath authorities are liable to pay the current charges at the prevailing tariff as per Electricity Act 2002.

Since the demand is not paid even after two years revenue recovery notice was issued to the Panchayath. Delay in issuing bill by the licensee does not exempt the consumer from paying the current charges. The interest accrued is from the date of raising of demand only, More over the Panchayath has now a facility to settle the arrear with reduced interest as per OTS 2023 scheme.

3. Analysis and Findings

The hearing of the case was conducted on 20/12/2023. Both the petitioner and the respondent were present, and the Forum heard the matter in detail on analyzing the petition and other documents the Forum viewed that the case is with regard to an arrear bill served to Manampoor Grama Panchayath. The bill amounting to Rs.85440/- was generated on the basis of the street light survey for 108 street lights and another bill amounting to Rs.117420/- was prepared on the basis of RAO audit for 139 LED bulbs and 8 mercury vapour lamps which were remained unbilled under Electrical Section, Vakkom. The bill served to Manampoor Grama Panchayath stands legal and sustainable as delay in issuing bill does not exempt the petitioner from paying the bill

4. Decision

Considering the above facts and circumstance of the case, the Forum disposed the case with the following orders.

1. The petitioner is liable to make the payment of the bill issued by the licensee.
2. No order as to cost.

If the petitioner is not satisfied with the above order of this Forum, he is at liberty to prefer appeal before the Electricity Ombudsman within 30 days from the date of receipt of this order.

The address of the Electricity Ombudsman is furnished below.

'The State Electricity Ombudsman, D.H & Foreshore Road Junction, Near Gandhi Square, Ernakulam, Kerala - 682 016. Phone: 0484 2346488'.

Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-
C .K.HARIKUMAR	SANJEEV KOSHY	LAILA.N.G
ADVOCATE MEMBER III	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MEMBER II	DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER CHAIRPERSON

Forwarded

Sd/-

CHAIRPERSON
(DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER)

No: CGRF/KTR/OP No.74/2023/ 31 Dated :31/01/2024

Delivered to: 1. Smt. Saleena Ismail Thadathil Parambil House,
Nedumkunnam, Kottayam.
2. The Assistant Executive Engineer, Electrical Sub Division,
Kadakkavur.
3. The Assistant Engineer, Electrical Section, Vakkom.

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, KSERC, KPFC Bhavanam, Vellayambalam,
Thiruvananthapuram.
2. The Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle,
Thiruvananthapuram.
3. The Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Attingal.