

BEFORE THE CONSUMER GRIEVANCES REDRESSAL FORUM
(Under the Electricity Act, 2003)
PUDUCHERRY

PRESENT:

THIRU T. GOPALAKRISHNAN, B.E.,
CHAIRMAN

THIRU A.S. JITENDRA RAO, B. Tech., M.B.A.,
LICENSEE MEMBER

THIRU R. KRISHNAMURTHY, B.Com., LLB., PGDFL.,
JERC NOMINATED MEMBER

THURSDAY, THE 19th DAY OF MAY 2022

CONSUMER CASE No.56/2022

S. Venkatachalapathy,
S/o Seenuvasan,
No.5, Abirami Amman South Street,
T.R. Pattinam,
Karaikal.

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Complainant

Vs.

- 1.The Executive Engineer,
Electricity Department,
Karaikal.
- 2.The Assistant Engineer-Town-I,
Electricity Department,
Karaikal.
3. The Junior Engineer -T.R.Pattinam,
Electricity Department,
Karaikal.

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Respondents

This case in C.C. No.56/2022 came up before this Forum for final hearing on 13/05/2022. After hearing both sides and having stood over till this date for consideration this Forum has delivered the following:

The case of the Complainant is as follows:

1. A Complaint was received from S. Venkatachalapathy, T.R. Pattinam, Karaikal during the public interaction programme of this Forum held in Karaikal on 20/04/2022. In the complaint, the Complainant stated that LT lines are very near to the balcony of his house and made request to convert into underground cable at his own cost. The Junior Engineer, T.R. Pattinam had forwarded the representation to the Assistant Engineer, Town and after many follow up, the Junior Engineer and Assistant Engineer made visit to the spot and informed that the work could be executed at his cost. Thereafter he was called to Office of the Assistant Engineer, Town, and told that objection was received from one Tmt. Maithily, that the work should not be permitted. Further a case was also filed by her against the Department not to execute the work which is registered as O.S. No.46/2013 dated 11/01/2013. He approached the Government Pleader many times who represented the Department, whereas the Plaintiff did not turn out for hearing and the case was dismissed. The Order copy is enclosed with the complaint. The Complainant prayed this Forum to give directions to the Respondents to permit the work of laying underground cable. Hence the complaint.

2. The Complaint was registered as consumer case No.56/2022 and the copy of the complaint was handed over to the Respondents to furnish reply by 02/05/2022. The reply was received from the Respondents on 05/05/2022 On receipt of reply from the Respondents, the copy of the same was sent to the complainant and hearing was posted on 13/05/2022.

3. In the Affidavit dated 02/05/2022, The Assistant Engineer, Town-I/ Respondent No.2 on behalf of the Respondents No.1 and 3 informed that the site has been inspected by the jurisdictional Engineer and necessary estimate will be prepared to deviate the LT 3 Phase 5 wire line and to be sanctioned by the competent

authority under “Other Receipts”. On issue of sanction the work is to be taken up and completed by the Complainant after payment of necessary charges to the Department. The estimate will be evolved and got sanctioned within 20 days.

4. Hearing was held on 13/05/2022 at Karaikal. The hearing was attended by both Complainant and Respondents. During the hearing, the Respondents were directed to get the estimate sanctioned within 3 weeks and communicate to the Complainant for remittance of the supervision charges. The Complainant was directed to carry out the work at his cost by engaging authorised Licensed Electrical Contractor and get executed under the supervision of the Department Engineers. The Respondents were also directed to explore the possibility of aerial bunched conductors in such cases. Further the Department should supervise the work on safety aspects. But the Respondents prayed their inability to get involved in any dispute between the Complainant and his neighbour.

ORDER

- i. The Respondents after sanctioning the shifting of the LT lines estimate, shall communicate to the Complainant within 3 weeks from the date of this Order and the Forum should also be kept updated.
- ii. On receipt of the estimate the Complainant is directed to remit the supervisory charges and get the work executed under the supervision of the Department within reasonable time of two weeks
- iii. The Respondents are directed to file additional Affidavit after completion of the work within 2 months from the date of this Order.
- iv. Thus, the complaint is allowed.

v. Non-compliance with the directions of Forum by the Licensee shall attract remedial action under Sections 142 and 146, of the Electricity Act 2003.

Dated at Puducherry on this the 19th day of May, 2022

Sd/-

(R. KRISHNAMURTHY)
JERC NOMINATED MEMBER

Sd/-

(A.S. JITENDRA RAO)
LICENSEE MEMBER

Sd/-

(T. GOPALAKRISHNAN)
CHAIRMAN