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महाराष्ट्र राज्य मानवी हक्क आयोग



Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission (MSHRC) Mumbai

Allotted to Court No. : 1/ 2/ 3
DOCKET SHEET

SUO MOTU CASE NO: 4459/13/37/2022

News item appeared in Marathi Newspaper (Samna) on

7TH November, 2022 "एक पंखा, तीन दिवे.... बीज बिल सवा लाख".

Palghar.

Case to :- Hon'ble, Justice K.K.Tated, (Retd.).

Date of allotment :- 10.11.2022

SUMMARY

4459/13/37/2022
सामना Page 7.
7-11-2022

डहाणूच्या ग्रामीण भागात महावितरणची लुटमार

एक पंखा, तीन दिवे... वीज बिल सवा लाख

डहाणू, दि. ६ (सा.वा.) - डहाणू तालुक्यातील ग्रामीण भागात महावितरणचा 'शॉकिंग' कारभार पुन्हा एकदा पाहायला मिळाला आहे. धानीवरी-कोटबीपाडा येथील मोलमजुरी करून हातावर पोट भरणाऱ्या एका आदिवासी कुटुंबाला चक्क सवा लाखांचे वीज बिल पाठवले आहे. एक पंखा, तीन दिवे असताना आलेल्या या भरमसाट बिलाने आदिवासींना अक्षरशः 'शॉक'च बसला आहे.

डहाणू तालुक्यातील धानीवरी कोटबीपाडा येथील मजित गायकर हा आदिवासी शेतकरी मोलमजुरी करून आपल्या कुटुंबाचे पालनपोषण करतो. पतप्रधान आवास योजनेतर्गत मिळालेल्या घरकुलात राहणाऱ्या गायकर कुटुंबाच्या घरात विजेचे फक्त तीन बल्ब आणि एक पंखा आहे. मात्र महावितरण



कंपनीच्या डहाणू उपविभागाने त्यांना सप्टेंबर महिन्याचे तब्बल १ लाख २९ हजारांचे वीज बिल पाठवले आहे. हे अवाढव्य वीज बिल बघून गायकर यांचे डोळेच पांढरे झाले. त्यांना दर महिन्याला सरासरी ३०० रुपये ते ६०० रुपये दरम्यान वीज बिल येत असताना इतक्या मोठ्या रकमेचे वीज बिल येताच त्यांनी तडक महावितरण कंपनीच्या कार्यालयात जाऊन चुकीच्या रिडिंगवर वीज बिल पाठवण्यात आल्याचे समजून सांगण्याचा प्रयत्न केला. मात्र अधिकार्यांनी त्यांचे काहीएक ऐकून न घेता आलेले पूर्ण वीज बिल भरावेच लागेल, नाहीतर वीज मीटर काढून नेण्याची धमकी दिली. दरम्यान, धानीवरी कोटबीपाड्यात गायकर कुटुंबाप्रमाणेच आणखी २० पेक्षा जास्त कुटुंबांना सरासरीपेक्षा अधिक रकमेची वीज बिले आली आहेत.

धानीवरी येथे सर्व गरीब आदिवासी कुटुंबे राहत असून ते नियमित वीज बिल भरत असतात. यातील अनेकांकडे फक्त बल्ब, पंखा आणि टीव्ही अशी प्राथमिक विजेची साधने आहेत. मात्र महावितरण कंपनीच्या खासगी एजन्सीकडून वेळेवर रिडिंग न घेता अंदाजे भरमसाट वीज बिल आकारणी केली जाते. याचा मोठा त्रास गरीब कुटुंबांना बसत असून तुटपुंज्या कमाईतील सर्व पैसा वीज बिल भरण्यातच खर्च होतो. ■ शैलेश कोरडा, सरपंच, धानीवरी ग्रामपंचायत

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MAHARASHTRA STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

9, Hajarimal Somani Marg, Opp. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai – 400 001

Tel : 22092857 Email: - court1-mshrc@mah.gov.in

KKT/Suo Moto Case No.-4459/1337/2022

- Name of Respondent :
1. The Chairman and Managing Director
Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution
Company Limited
Prakashgad, Bandra, Mumbai – 400 051
 2. The Jt. Managing Director
(Operation & Distribution)
Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution
Company Limited
Anant Kanekar Marg, D Block
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra, Mumbai
 3. The Principal Secretary
Industries, Energy and Labour
Department
Madam Kama Road,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032

Date : 10th November 2022

Coram : Justice K.K. Tated, Chairperson

PROCEEDING

Not on board. Taken on board.

2. We noticed news in Marathi News Paper Samana dated 07.11.2022 with heading “एक पंखा तीन दिवेवीज बिल सवा लाख”.

3. It is stated in the said news item that, at village Dhanivari-Kotbipada all poor tribal families resides and they have been depositing electricity bill regularly. Most of the persons are using bulb, fan and T.V. as a primary electrical devices. Despite of that, private agency of electricity company does not takes the reading on time and assessed excess electricity bill. Due to that poor families are suffering and they are getting electricity bills on higher side. In

same way Mr. Ajit Gaykar, tribal working as worker got electricity bill for the month of September 2022 of Rs. 1,29,000/- (Rupees One Lacs Twenty Nine Thousand Only). Previously he use to get bill of Rs. 300 to Rs. 600 per month only. When he contacted officers, they insisted him to pay bill first, then only they will look into the matter.

4. Considering these facts the following order is passed:

- a) Office is directed to issue summons to the Chairman and Managing Director, Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, Prakashgad, Bandra, Mumbai, Joint Managing Director, (Operation and Distribution), Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, Mumbai and Principal Secretary (Industries, Energy and Labour Department), Mantralaya, Mumbai directing them to file their affidavit in reply on or before 24th November 2022.
- b) Respondents are directed to inform Mr. Ajit Gaykar Victim and Shaikh Korda, Sarpanch, Dhaniwari Grampanchayat about this matter and next date of hearing in writing immediately.
- c) **Matter to appear on board before Division Bench of Justice K.K. Tated and Shri. Bhagwantrao D. More, Member in Court No.1 on 24th November 2022 at 11.00 a.m.**


(Justice K. K. Tated)
Chairperson



MAHARASHTRA STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

9, Hajarimal Somani Marg, Opp. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai – 400 001

Tel : 22092857 Email:- court1-mshrc@mah.gov.in

DIVISION BENCH

KKT/Suo Moto Case No.– 4459/13/37/2022

- Name of Respondent : 1. The Chairman and Managing Director
Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution
Company Limited
Prakashgad, Bandra, Mumbai – 400 051
2. The Jt. Managing Director
(Operation & Distribution)
Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution
Company Limited
Anant Kanekar Marg, D Block
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra, Mumbai
3. The Principal Secretary
Industries, Energy and Labour
Department
Madam Kama Road,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032
- Date : 13th December 2022
- Coram : Justice K.K. Tated, Chairperson
Bhagwantrao D. More, Member

ORDER

(Per: Justice K.K. Tated, Hon'ble Chairperson)

Following parties are present:

Advocate Mr. Sandeep Jinsiwale for Maharashtra State Electricity
Distribution Company Ltd., Mumbai.

Mr. Kiran Nagaonkar, S.E., Maharashtra State Electricity
Distribution Company Ltd., Palghar.

Mr. Pratap Machiye, Executive Engineer, Maharashtra State
Electricity Distribution Company Ltd., Palghar.

Mr. B.S. Dhodi, Dy. Executive Engineer, Dahanu

Mr. Sanjay Raut, A.E. Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution
Company Ltd., Palghar.

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2. Advocate Mr. Jinsiwale filed additional affidavit dated 07.12.2022. Same is taken on record and marked as Exhibit - 'B'.

3. The present suo moto case registered on the basis of article published in Marathi Newspaper Samana dated 07.11.2022 on page 7 with heading "डहाणूच्या ग्रामीण भागात महावितरणाची लुटमार; एक पंखा तीन दिवेवीज बिल सवा लाख".

4. Advocate Mr. Jinsiwale submits that as soon as they received complaint about excess bill from village Dhanivari, Kotbipada immediately they made inquiry and decided to reduce the bill. He submits that they found the excess bill issued by mistake because of technical fault. He submits that thereafter Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited arranged camps in the said locality. That time they found 12 defective bills, and were rectified immediately. In support of this contention Advocate for Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited relies on para. 5 of affidavit dated 07.12.2022 (Ex. B) which reads thus:

"I say that, the MSEDCL has taken the cognizance of said issue and accordingly arranged the camps in the local office of MSEDCL in the said village. I say that, thereafter nearly 12 those consumers who approached or made any grievance above was already taken by Respondents much prior to publication of news dated 07.11.2022. The Special Camp has been arranged partly in last week of October -2022 and partly in first week of November-2022 at Village-Dhanivari-Kotbipada under Dahanu, Sub. Division. During said Campaign twelve complaints including complaint of Mr. Ajit Gaykar was received and all complaints was resolved. The revised bills were immediately given to all these consumers. Hereto annexed and marked as Exh.A is comparative statement of revised bills all these consumers and Exh.B (colly) are copies of Bill prior and Exh.C (colly) are copies after bill revision of all these consumers."

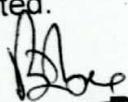
5. Advocate for Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited also relies on tabular statement on Page 6 of Ex. B. He further submits that as per their knowledge, problem of customers in that area is already solved. If they gets any complaint they will decide the same immediately on its own merits. Statement is accepted.

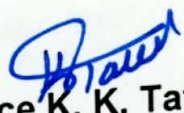
6. The issue in the present suo moto petition was about excess bill to the agriculturists and villagers. The said issue solved by the Respondents immediately.

7. Considering these facts we are of the opinion that in the present case we do not require any further investigation.

8. Hence, following order is passed:

- a) Suo Moto petition stands disposed of in view of affidavit (Ex. A and B) filed by Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited.


(Bhagwantrao D. More)
Member


(Justice K. K. Tated)
Chairperson