

C O P Y O R D E R S H E E T

District

: WEST JAINTIA HILLS

In the Court of

: SHRI. N.A KHAN (MHJS),

President District Commission, Jowai

Consumer Case No. 3 of 2024

Date of Order of proceeding	O R D E R	Signature of Court	Office action taken on order with date and dated signature of Pleaders of parties when necessary
13-12-2024	<p>CR put up today.</p> <p>1. The complainant Smti. New Tariang belongs to the BPL family, she was provided electricity connection by the opposite party with two bulb points and one socket free of cost under the BPL Scheme. It appears from the record that, the Petitioner's average bill for the electricity was around Rs. 250 (Rupees Two hundred and fifty) per month and she has paid the bill regularly. In the month of November 2023, the Petitioner electricity bill came around Rs. 1795/- (Rupees One thousand seven hundred and ninety five) and in May 2024, she received a bill of Rs. 4089/- (Four thousand and eighty nine).</p> <p>2. There is also contention raised by the Petitioner, with regard to the defective meter. Due to non payment of the bill, the opposite party disconnected the electricity</p>		

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connection on 01.08.2024.

3. In even of there being any dispute with regard to the bill, the Petitioner ought to have been allowed to deposit the average bill, till the purported inflated bill is adjudicated.
4. The complaint was filed on 06-08-2024. The Respondent MePDCL had entered appearance and has filed Petition questioning the jurisdiction of this forum, to entertain a complaint, in view of the forum available to the complainant under the Meghalaya State Electricity Regulatory Commission.
5. The Petitioner has filed a reply. This court has examined the question of jurisdiction raised by the MePDCL. The jurisdiction of the commission would not be ousted simply, if there is a regulatory body, this court will pass an elaborate order on the maintainability after hearing the parties.
6. Keeping in mind, that the Petitioner comes from a BPL family, under the welfare scheme, she was provided electricity. There are materials on record to show that, she was regularly paying the bill at the average of

Rs. 250/- (Rupees two hundred and fifty). Thereafter, there was a sudden increased in the electricity bill, as such, the Petitioner could not pay the bill, which led to disconnection of the electricity. The Petitioner is using two bulbs and one socket. The Petitioner has been deprived of electricity leaving the Petitioner house in darkness. Electricity is indispensable in modern day's life, and it will not be an exaggeration, to say it is a lifeline of our life. Right to electricity comes within the purview of Right to Life.

7. It appears that all the rigors of law has been shown on the Petitioner by the opposite party, who has been consuming electricity for two bulbs in a socket and has been push to approach this commission for redressal of the grievance.

8. This Matter is pending for almost 4 (four) months. This court finds that, predicament of a person who approaches the commission cannot be overlook, as such, this commission in exercise of power under Sub-section (8) of Section 38 of Consumer Protection Act, 2019, deem fit and proper to pass an interim order, directing the

MePDCL of the opposite party to restore the electricity connection within 24 (twenty four) hours of received of copy of this order.

9. Copy of this order shall be communicated to the Meghalaya Power Distribution Corporation Limited (MePDCL), West Jaintia Hills District, Amlarem.

Fix 17-12-2024 for compliance.

Sd/-
President District Commission,
Jowai.

Sd/-
Members
District Commission,
West Jaintia Hills District Jowai

Sd/-
Members
District Commission,
West Jaintia Hills District Jowai

Memo. No. Consumer Case.No.3/2024 Dated 13/12/2024

Copy to:

1. The Meghalaya Power Distribution Corporation Limited (MePDCL), West Jaintia Hills District, Amlarem.
2. Record.