

BEFORE THE VIDYUT OMBUDSMAN FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA

First Floor 33/11 kV Substation, Beside Hyderabad Boat Club Lumbini Park, Hyderabad - 500 063

PRESENT: SRI MOHAMMAD NIZAMUDDIN VIDYUT OMBUDSMAN

THURSDAY THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF JANUARY TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FIVE

Appeal No. 39 of 2024-25

Between

Sri K. Brahmam, President, Alladurgam Assembly Niyojakavarga Sadhana Samithi, Alladurg Village and Mandal, Medak District - 502 269. Cell: 9618168234.

..... Appellant

AND

- The Assistant Engineer/Operation/Alladurg/TGSPDCL/Medak District.
- The Assistant Divisional Engineer/Operation/Pappannapet/TGSPDCL/
 Medak District.
- The Divisional Engineer/Operation/TGSPDCL/Medak District.
- The Superintending Engineer/Operation/Medak/TGSPDCL/Medak District.

.....Respondents

This appeal is coming on before me for final hearing today in the presence of the appellant, virtually and Sri T.Mohan Babu - ADE/OP/Papannapet for the respondents, virtually and having stood over for consideration, this Vidyut Ombudsman passed the following:-

AWARD

This appeal is preferred aggrieved by the Award in C.G.No.364/2023-24 dt.20.06.2024, Medak Circle passed by the Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum - I (in short 'the Forum') of Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (in short 'TGSPDCL'), with specific directions to the parties.

CASE OF THE APPELLANT BEFORE THE FORUM

2. The case of the appellant before the learned Forum is that the High Tension lines passing through NH 161 on the right side of Nadimi Thanda in front of Gas Godown, Sri Veerabrahmendra Swamy Temple Area, Government Hospital and over the office of Tahsildar, Alladurg Mandal is causing inconvenience to the general public moving around the said place. Therefore it was prayed to shift the said lines to avoid any untoward incident.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS

3. In the written reply submitted by respondent No. 2 before the learned Forum, it is, inter-alia, submitted that the subject premises was inspected and found that the electrical lines and poles were erected long back even before construction of houses/buildings. The said structures were constructed under the electric lines and poles without shifting the lines/poles in the premises. Therefore the said electric lines and poles shall be shifted from the premises on the expenditure of the consumers.

AWARD OF THE FORUM

4. After considering the material on record and after hearing both sides, the learned Forum has directed the appellant herein to register an application at Consumer Service Center and the respondents were also directed to shift the said lines on payment of user charges. Aggrieved by the Award passed by the learned Forum, the present appeal is preferred, reiterating the contents made in the complaint filed by the appellant herein.

WRITTEN SUBMISSION OF THE RESPONDENTS

No written reply was filed by the respondents before this Authority.
 Photos were sent by the parties showing the location.

ARGUMENTS

- 7. It is the argument of the appellant that the subject electric lines are causing inconvenience to the public at the office of the Tahsildar and Government hospital etc., Therefore it is prayed to direct the respondents to shift the electric lines to some other place.
- 8. On the other hand, the respondents have argued that the subject electric lines and poles were erected long back and they can be shifted but on payment of user charges by the consumers.

POINTS

- The points that arise for consideration are:
 - i) Whether the appellant is entitled for shifting of electric lines free of cost?
 - ii) Whether the impugned Award passed by the learned Forum is liable to be set aside? and
 - iii) To what relief?

POINT No. (i) and (ii)

ADMITTED FACTS

10. It is an admitted fact that the subject electric lines were erected long back. The photos submitted in this case also show the said factum. It is represented by respondent No.2 that at present the subject electric lines are not dangerous.

SETTLEMENT BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT

11. Both the parties have appeared before this Authority on different dates virtually. Efforts were made to reach a settlement between the parties through the process of conciliation and mediation. However, no settlement could be reached. The hearing, therefore, continued to provide reasonable opportunity to both the parties to put-forth their case and they were heard.

REASONS FOR DELAY IN DISPOSING OF THE APPEAL

12. The present appeal was filed on 20.12.2024. This appeal is being disposed of within the period of (60) days as required.

CRUX OF THE MATTER

13. The grievance of the appellant is that the subject electric lines are causing inconvenience to the public in general, therefore they may be shifted to some other place free of cost. It is submitted by respondent No.2 that the subject electric lines are not dangerous and they take care when the said lines are dangerous. At this stage it is necessary to refer Sec.53 of the Electricity Act which is as under:-

Section 53. (Provisions relating to safety and electricity supply):

The Authority may in consultation with the State Government, specify suitable measures for –

- (a)protecting the public (including the persons engaged in the generation, transmission or distribution or trading) from dangers arising from the generation, transmission or distribution or trading of electricity, or use of electricity supplied or installation, maintenance or use of any electric line or electrical plant;
- (b) eliminating or reducing the risks of personal injury to any person, or damage to property of any person or interference with use of such property;
- (c) prohibiting the supply or transmission of electricity except by means of a system which conforms to the specification as may be specified;
- (d) giving notice in the specified form to the Appropriate Commission and the Electrical Inspector, of accidents and failures of supplies or transmissions of electricity;
- (e) keeping by a generating company or licensee the maps, plans and sections relating to supply or transmission of electricity;
- (f) inspection of maps, plans and sections by any person authorised by it or by Electrical Inspector or by any person on payment of specified fee;
- (g) specifying action to be taken in relation to any electric line or electrical plant, or any electrical appliance under the control of a consumer for the purpose of eliminating or reducing the risk of personal injury or damage to property or interference with its use.

provision makes it quite clear that it is the duty of the licensee-respondents to replace the electric poles and AB cable wire etc., if they are in a damaged condition and if they endanger human life. Therefore the respondents have to check these electric apparatus regularly and whenever the situation demands they have to replace them. In the present case in view of the submission of the respondents that the subject electric lines are healthy, they cannot be shifted. The appellant wants that the subject electric lines be shifted by the respondents by bearing the entire expenditure. The plea of the respondents is that the appellant has to register the complaint at the Customer Service Center and bear the entire expenditure for shifting. In view of the factors existing in the present case the situation does not warrant to shift the subject electric lines by the respondents on their own accord. The learned Forum has considered all these factors properly and directed the appellant to register an application at Customer Service Center, Papannapet Sub Division along-with consent to pay necessary shifting charges for shifting the lines. The learned Forum has also directed the respondents to shift the HT lines after preparing the estimate etc., and after payment of shifting charges by the appellant as soon as possible. I do not see any reason to interfere with the said Award of the learned Forum. Therefore, I hold that the subject electric lines and poles are not liable to be shifted free of cost and the Award of the learned Forum is not liable to be set aside. These points are accordingly decided against the appellant and in favour of the respondents.

POINT No. (iii)

 In view of the findings on point Nos. (i) and (ii), the appeal is liable to be rejected.

RESULT

 In the result, the appeal is rejected confirming the Award passed by the learned Forum.

A copy of this Award is made available at https://vidyutombudsman-tserc.gov.in.

Typed to my dictation by Office Executive cum Computer Operator, corrected and pronounced by me on the 16th day of January 2025.

Sd/-Vi<mark>d</mark>yut Ombudsman

- Sri K. Brahmam, President, Alladurgam Assembly Niyojakavarga Sadhana Samithi, Alladurg Village and Mandal, Medak District - 502 269. Cell: 9618168234.
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Copy to

 The Chairperson, Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum of TSSPDCL-Rural, H.No.8-03-167/14, GTS Colony, Yousufguda, Hyderabad.