# CONSUMER GRIEVANCES REDRESSALFORUM SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P LIMITED. TIRUPATI

This 02<sup>nd</sup> day of January' 2025

C.G.No.206/2024-25/Tirupati Circle

**CHAIRPERSON** 

Sri. V. Srinivasa Anjaneya Murthy

Former Principal District Judge

## Members Present

Sri. K. Ramamohan Rao Member (Finance) Sri. S.L. Anjani Kumar Member (Technical)

#### Between

Sri. N. Seenivasan, Sr. Manager, D.No.910, M/s. Axxelent Pharma Science Pvt. Ltd, Sri City, Satyavedu (M), Tirupati Dist.

Complainant

### AND

- 1. Superintending Engineer/O/Tirupati
- 2. Dy. Executive Engineer/O/Nagalapuram
- 3. Executive Engineer/O/Puttur
- 4. Senior Accounts Officer/O/Tirupati

Respondents

This complaint came up for final hearing before this Forum through video conferencing on 19.12.2024 in the presence of the complainant and respondents and having considered the material placed by both the parties, this Forum passed the following

#### **ORDER**

01. The complainant filed the complaint during Vidyut Adalat conducted on 04.12.2024 at Sricity stating that they have received demand notice for a sum of Rs.56,96,200/- with due date 04.11.2024 and they requested for payment in installments and accordingly three installments are granted on 12.11.2024, that they have paid first installment on 15.11.2024 and this month they have received bill for CC charges with surcharge of

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Rs.58,861.57 Ps for entire amount and current month (December 2024) invoice given bill with *ACD* (*Additional Consumption Deposit*) due for rest of two installments and they request to waive off the surcharge and not to include the ACD amount in the current consumption bill.

- 02. The said complaint was registered as C.G.No.206/2024-25 and notices were issued to the respondents calling for their response. The respondents submitted their response stating that as per Regulation No.06 of 2004 of the Hon'ble APERC, interest will be calculated @18% after the due date on the balance ACD pending and accordingly the same has been included in the following month (December'2024) CC charges bill and belated payment surcharge is levied following the Regulation No.06 of 2004 of the Hon'ble APERC and as per Retail Supply Tariff Order from time to time and there is no irregularity or illegality in the demand notice issued by the respondents.
- 03. Heard complainant and respondents through video conferencing. The complainant submit that the respondents are illegally collecting interest on the installment amounts and they have no right to collect the interest, once they fixed the installment amounts. On the otherhand, the respondents submit that as per *Retail Supply Tariff Order for the F.Y.2024-25*, in case of granting installments they shall levy interest @18% per annum on the outstanding amounts and in the case on hand since installments are fixed, they have levied interest @18% per annum on the outstanding amounts and there is no illegality or irregularity in collecting the interest on outstanding amount.
- **04.** We have considered the submission of both the parties. We perused *Retail* Supply Tariff Order for F.Y.2024-25 in which Clause.No.6.7 in Chapter X reads as follows:

# "Additional Charges for belated payment:

The Licensees shall charge the delayed payment surcharge (DPS) per month on monthly consumption charges only @ 5 Ps/100/Day or 550/- whichever is higher. In case of grant of installments, the Licensees shall levy interest @ 18% per annum on the outstanding amounts, compounded annually and both shall not be levied at the same time".

We have perused the demand notice. Admittedly, the respondents issued ACD notice for Rs. 56,96,200/- on 05.10.2024. Admittedly, the complainant requested for installments and accordingly three installments are granted with due date on 04.11.2024. Admittedly, the complainant paid the first installment of Rs.19,16,200/- on 15.11.2024 and as such the respondents levied 18% interest (Rs.30,899.93 Ps) on the total ACD outstanding amount of Rs.56,96,200/- for the delay of 11 days in paying the amount. After payment of the first installment of Rs.19,16,200/- on 15.11.2024, the balance ACD outstanding is Rs.37,80,000/- and on this balance ACD outstanding amount the respondents calculated interest @18% per annum for the delay of 15 days from 16.11.2024 to 30.11.2024 (Rs. 27,961.64 Ps). Thus, the total interest amount worked out at Rs.58,861.57 Ps. and this amount is included in the CC bill for the month of December'2024. On considering the entire material, we have no hesitation to hold that the action in calculating the interest on ACD outstanding amount is in accordance with Clause. No.6.7 in Chapter No.X of Retail Supply Tariff Order for F.Y.2024-25, since the complainant choosed to pay the ACD outstanding amount in installments. Hence, we find no irregularity or illegality in levying interest on the ACD outstanding amount by the respondents and the complaint is devoid of merits. Accordingly, the complaint is dismissed. There is no order as to costs.

**05.** The complainant is informed that if he is aggrieved by the order of the Forum, he may approach the Vidyut Ombudsman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Plot. No.38, Adjacent to Kesineni Admin Office, Sriramachandra Nagar, Mahanadu Road, Vijayawada-08 in terms of Clause.13 of Regulation.No.3 of 2016 of Hon'ble APERC within 30 days from the date of receipt of this order and the prescribed format is available in the website vidyutombudsman.ap.gov.in.

Typed to dictation by the computer operator-2 corrected and pronounced in the open Forum on this 02<sup>nd</sup> day of January' 2025.

CHAIRPERSON

Documents marked

For the complainant: Nil

For the respondents: Nil

Copy to the

Complainant and All the Respondents

Copy Submitted to

The Chairman & Managing Director/Corporate Office/APSPDCL/Tirupati.

The Vidyut Ombudsman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Plot No.38, Sriramachandra Nagar, Vijayawada-08.

The Secretary/Hon'ble APERC/Vidyut Niyantrana Bhavan, Adjacent to 220/132/33/11 KV AP Carbides Sub Station, Dinnedevarapadu Road, Kurnool-518002, State of Andhra Pradesh.

The Stock file.