

**COURT OF THE LOK PAL (OMBUDSMAN),
ELECTRICITY, PUNJAB,
PLOT NO. A-2, INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE-1,
S.A.S. NAGAR (MOHALI).**

**(Constituted under Sub Section (6) of Section 42 of
Electricity Act, 2003)**

**APPEAL No. 02/2025
PROCEEDINGS DATED 31.01.2025**

In the Matter of:

Sh. Gokha Chand S/o Sh. Shah Ram,
Village- Langrian, Tehsil- Amargarh,
Distt.- Malerkotla.

Contract Account Number: P56AM050490N (DS)

...Appellant

Versus

Addl. Superintending Engineer,
DS Division, PSPCL,
Nabha.

...Respondent

Present For:

Appellant:

Sh. Randeep Singh,
Appellant's Representative.

Respondent :

1- Er. Navjeet Singh,
AE/DS Division,
PSPCL, Nabha.
2- Sh. Amit Kumar, RA.

At the start of hearing, the issue of condoning of delay in filing the Appeal beyond the stipulated period was taken up. The Appellant's Representative submitted that the copy of decision dated 26.07.2024 of the CCGRF, Ludhiana was received by the Appellant on 30.08.2024 from the office of the Respondent. On receiving the same, he sent the Appeal to this Court on

21.09.2024 by post, but it was returned back to him due to wrong address. Then he got correct address of this Court from the Respondent's office & send it again through post. As such, there was a delay in filing the present Appeal. The Appellant's Representative requested for the condonation of delay in filing the Appeal & prayed that Appeal be heard on merits in the interest of justice. I find that the Respondent did not object to the condoning of the delay in filing the Appeal in this Court either in its written reply or during hearing in this Court.

In this connection, I have gone through Regulation 3.18 of PSERC (Forum and Ombudsman) Regulations, 2016 which reads as under: -

"No representation to the Ombudsman shall lie unless:

(ii) The representation is made within 30 days from the date of receipt of the order of the Forum.

Provided that the Ombudsman may entertain a representation beyond 30 days on sufficient cause being shown by the complainant that he/she had reasons for not filing the representation within the aforesaid period of 30 days."

It was observed that refusal to condone the delay in filing the Appeal would deprive the Appellant of the opportunity required

to be afforded to defend the case on merits. Therefore, with a view to meet the ends of ultimate justice, the delay in filing the Appeal in this Court beyond the stipulated period was condoned and the Appellant's Representative was allowed to present the case.

Arguments of both the parties were heard. The Respondent submitted the written reply, which was taken on record. A copy of the same was provided to the Appellant's Representative. The Respondent was directed to furnish the methodology by which the Appellant's bill had been reassessed.

The next date of hearing is fixed for 14.02.2025 at 01.30 PM. Both the parties are directed to be present on the next date of hearing.

January 31, 2025
S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali).

(ANJULI CHANDRA)
Lokpal (Ombudsman)
Electricity, Punjab.