

**Before the Ombudsman**  
**KPFC BHAVAN, C.V.Raman Pillai Road , Vellayambalam,**  
**Thiruvananthapuram-695 010.**

**Order Dated. 27<sup>th</sup> December 2006.**

Present: M.Sivathanu Pillai, Ombudsman-in Charge.

Appeal petition No.6 of 2006.

CGRF order No.OP.NO.45/2005 DATED 10-08-2006.

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Sri.B.Suresh

Arappura Veedu,Kaithode.P.O.

Nilamel,691 535

Appellant

Vs

Assistant Executive Engineer,

Electrical Sub Division,KSEB,

Kilimanoor

Respondent

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**Date of hearing: 27-12-2006.**

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Petitioner is a resident of Nilamel in Kollam District. The Petitioner is a consumer of Kerala State Electricity Board (hereinafter called Board) with consumer No.6824 under Electrical Section, Madavoor, Kilimanoor. Petitioner has stated that he has remitted the testing fee with Government for testing the Electromechanical Energy Meter(1991 model) installed in his premises. But it is stated that Board officials removed the meter without giving any attention to the plea of residents of the house. Petitioner has stated that Board representative has stated before CGRF, Kottarakkara that the energy meter need not be tested. But Board officials had not intimated the same to the petitioner at the first instance itself so that he could have approached the Hon. Court. Also, it is stated that Board officials have alleged that there was theft of electricity.

The parties were heard on 27-12-2006. Petitioner while presenting the case stated that CDRF while passing the order has mentioned about tampering of the meter and inaction on the part of Board.

Respondent stated that clear case of theft was detected. The respondent submitted a photo. As theft was detected, the question of testing of the meter did not arise.

Petitioner agreed that tampering was done by the meter reader. When supply was not available for a few days continuously and when the complaints made with the Section Office did not produce any result, the help of the meter reader was sought under the impression that the meter reader is a staff of Board. Petitioner pleaded that the argument of Board that meter reader of the Board is not a regular employee of Board cannot be accepted because as for as a consumer is considered meter reader is a staff of Board.

Petitioner's stand is that the energy meter was faulty and that was the reason for failure of supply.

Petitioner's claim of ignorance regarding the status of meter reader is reasonable. Also, it is a fact that if tampering is done intentionally, it is only normal that some sort of expert advice is sought and tampering is done by means other than the method adopted in this case. Petitioner's appeal requires detailed enquiry involving the meter reader and the complaint register. But from the facts available, it can only be concluded that the stand taken by Board is correct. Petitioner has not included the meter reader as a party. The petition is disposed off.

OMBUDSMAN

**P6/2006/.....Dated**

Forwarded to

Sri.B.Suresh  
Arappura Veedu,Kaithode.P.O.  
Nilamel, 691 535

The Chief Engineer(Electrical)  
Distribution (South), KSEB,  
Power House Buildings,  
Thiruvananthapuram

Assistant Executive Engineer,  
Electrical Sub Division,KSEB,  
Kilimanoor

Secretary-in-Charge