

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

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CWP-7076-2024

Date of decision: 02.04.2024

GURMEHAR SINGH BOPARAE

.....Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

.....Respondents

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ

Present:- Mr. Manu K. Bhandari, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Karmanbir Singh Kharbanda, Advocate
for respondent No.2.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)

1. Prayer made in the present writ petition is for seeking issuance of directions to release the electricity connections in the colonies promoted by the petitioner since the local distribution system of the colony was taken over by the respondent Corporation in the month of August, 2019.

2. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner contends that the petitioner is ready and willing to pay all statutory charges and expenses as prescribed under Section 43, 45 and 46 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for release of the electricity connection.

3. The petitioner has been confronted with the provisions as enshrined under Section 42 (5) of the Electricity Act, 2003 as per which the Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum has already been established in the State of Punjab, which is competent to examine the

said issues. As per the provisions of Forum and Ombudsman Regulations, 2016, the issues in relation to release of the electricity connections, even to an applicant seeking release of electricity connection, can be entertained and are maintainable before the CGRF. Further, the power of passing an interim has also been conferred upon such Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum as well as the Ombudsman under the statutory regulations.

4. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respondent-PSPCL submits that there is an efficacious and alternative remedy available to the petitioner in accordance with law for seeking redressal of the grievance, which such fact has not been disclosed by the petitioner.

5. Faced with above, counsel for the petitioner does not press the instant petition at this stage with liberty to take recourse to the alternative remedies provided under the Forum and Ombudsman Regulations, 2016.

6. Needless to mention that in the event of the petitioner availing the alternative remedies available to him in accordance with law, the same shall be expeditiously decided and the interim prayer, if any, made by the petitioner shall also be taken up expeditiously.

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

APRIL 02, 2024
Vishal sharma

Whether speaking/reasoned	:	Yes/No
Whether reportable	:	Yes/No