



CWP-8149-2000

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT  
CHANDIGARH

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CWP-8149-2000

Date of Decision:06.11.2025

PREET INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

...PETITIONER

VERSUS

PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD &amp; ORS ...RESPONDENTS

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUVIR SEHGAL

Present: Mr. Gurcharan Dass, Advocate  
for the petitioner.

Mr. Ranjit Singh Kalra, Advocate and  
Ms. Mona Yadav, Advocate  
for the respondents.

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**SUVIR SEHGAL, J.(ORAL)**

1. Present petition has been filed *inter alia* for issuance of a writ in the nature of certiorari for quashing report dated 17.11.1998, Annexure P-2, as well as orders dated 08.10.1999 and 15.02.2000, Annexures P-5 and P-9, respectively, passed by Settlement Committees.

2. Counsel for the petitioner states that petitioner has a Small Power (S.P.) electric connection at his premises for more than a decade with connected load of 17.700 K.W. He states that due to a spark in the meter, it was burnt on 29.03.1998 and respondents restored electric supply to the factory premises by providing a direct connection. He states that initially petitioner was being charged on the basis of average consumption, but after checking of the meter vide impugned report, Annexure P-2, an amount of Rs.94,342/- was levied on the allegation that M.E. seals as well as glass of



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meter had been tampered. Counsel submits that petitioner immediately approached the Dispute Settlement Committee constituted by the Punjab State Electricity Board and deposited the requisite amount. He submits that one of the issues raised before the Dispute Settlement Committee was that Er. M.S. Dhaliwal, who was the Chairperson of the Circle Level Dispute Settlement Committee (CLDSC), was also representing official before the Zonal Level Dispute Settlement Committee (ZLDSC), which passed the impugned order, Annexure P-9, on appeal. Counsel points out that petitioner approached this Court by way of present petition and while issuing notice on 05.07.2000, this Court stayed the disconnection of electric supply to the premises of the petitioner.

3. Writ petition is being contested by the respondents and after hearing the parties, this Court passed the following order on 25.07.2025:-

*“During the course of arguments, it has transpired that impugned order dated 08.10.1999, Annexure P-5 was passed by a Circle Level Dispute Settlement Committee (CLDSC), which was headed by Er. M.S. Dhaliwal SE (Operation) as Chairperson. This order was challenged by the petitioner by filing an appeal before the Zonal Level Dispute Settlement Committee (ZLDSC) and was dismissed vide impugned order dated 31.03.2000, Annexure P-9. Er. M.S. Dhaliwal, who had passed order Annexure P-5, was the Presenting Officer, before the appellate forum. Respondents could not deny this fact as is evident from para 14 of the written statement. Mr. Kalra has placed reliance upon the circular, Annexure P-12, to state that the Board had authorized the SE (Operation) to be the Presenting Officer before the appellate authority.*



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*Mr. Gurcharan Dass, Advocate, has contended that this is in breach of the principles of natural justice and matter deserves to be remanded back to the appellate authority.*

*Mr. Kalra states that major changes have taken place during the pendency of this petition. He requests for time to apprise the Court as to whether ZLDSC is in existence and if not, what will be remedy available to the petitioner. An affidavit to this effect be filed.*

*List on 16.09.2025”*

4. In compliance thereto, an additional affidavit dated 24.09.2025 has been filed on behalf of the respondents, wherein it has been submitted that ZLDSC still exists, however, its nomenclature has now been changed to Zonal Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum, which is headed by a Chief Engineer.

5. In view thereof, impugned order, Annexure P-9, is set aside. Petitioner is relegated to avail the remedy before the aforesaid forum. Interim order passed by this Court on 05.07.2000 shall remain in operation till the conclusion of the proceedings by the forum.

6. Writ petition is disposed of.

7. It is clarified that Er. M.S. Dhaliwal, who was the Chairperson of the CLDSC, shall not be associated with the proceedings before the forum.

8. Parties are directed to appear before the forum on 01.12.2025 for further proceedings in accordance with law.

06.11.2025  
sheetal

(SUVIR SEHGAL)  
JUDGE

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|---------------------------|--------|
| Whether Speaking/Reasoned | Yes/No |
| Whether Reportable        | Yes/No |