20
12.11.2026
Court No. **652**
D.Hira

WPA 28604 of 2026

Pijush Guha Thakurta
Vs.
West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited & Ors.

Mr. Dipranjan Mukhopadhyay,
Mr. Atish Ghosh,
ms. Antara Dey.
... for the petitioner

Mr. Dr. Madhusudan Saha Roy.
... for the WBSEDCL

1. In the instant writ petition, the petitioner has challenged the demand notice addressed to him dated 17th July, 2026 by the Station Manager, Saktigarh Customer Care Centre, WBSEDCL.
2. By dint of the same, the authority has demanded unpaid bill amount to the tune of Rs.68,608/- for the period from 25.06.2016 to 27.03.2019 and a further amount of Rs.1,16,103/- for the period from 27.03.2019 to 30.06.2021, in order to and as a precondition to regenerate electricity in favour of the petitioner, which has since been disconnected due to default.
3. On behalf of the writ petitioner, the learned advocate has submitted two fold; firstly, that the petitioner being not a habitual defaulter and a bona fide but indigent consumer, is willing to pay the amount demanded, subject to allowing instalments to him. Secondly, it has been submitted that in violation of Section 56 of the Electricity Act, 2003, the

outstanding bill has been raised against the petitioner beyond the statutory period and therefore, such demand by itself is invalid as per the law.

4. Since due to alleged non-payment of the earlier dues as mentioned above, supply of electricity to the petitioner has been disconnected, he has prayed for immediate restoration of the supply to him.

5. There is strong objection raised by the respondent authority, as to the contentions and prayer of the writ petitioner, as above. Additionally it has been submitted that as on 6th October, 2026 the total outstanding due stands to be Rs.143613.59/- along with the LPSC amounting to Rs. 142675.07/-.

6. Dr. Saha Roy learned advocate for the respondent has objected to the submission of the petitioner as to the alleged invalidity of the demand raised due to statutory breach, contending inter alia that the petitioner has committed a continuous wrong in so far as by not paying consecutive monthly bills raised against him. Hence, according to Dr. Madhusudan Saha Roy, learned advocate for the respondent, the restrictions under Section 56 of the Electricity Act, 2003, would not be attracted in the instant case.

7. Further it has been submitted that in spite of allowing instalments to the petitioner, he has deliberately defaulted in payment of the electricity bill, as raised by the respondent from month to month.

8. Having heard the submissions of the learned advocates for the respective parties and perusing the documents on record, it appears that so far as the

outstanding amount of consumption bill as claimed by the respondent authority against the petitioner by dint of the impugned notice dated 17th July, 2026, is concerned, the petitioner has virtually raised no objection, excepting that the claim pertains for a period beyond the statutory limitation.

9. This argument of the petitioner is however demolished due to the fact that the claim of the respondent authority is a continuous one, raised through the bills issued against the petitioner consecutively for each month, which he has defaulted to pay.

10. It further appears that the petitioner is now willing to pay the outstanding amount as claimed by the respondent authority vide the said impugned letter dated 17th July, 2026, but without the surcharge.

11. Considering all as above, let this matter be remitted before the concerned GRO (Grievance Redressal Officer), for consideration of the petitioner's prayer for payment of outstanding bill in instalments and also reduction/waiver of surcharge, if permitted under the law, as it may think fit and proper.

12. Let the concerned G.R.O. (Grievance Redressal Officer) be directed to take up the matter immediately and pass an order within a period of ten days from the date of communication of this order.

13. Needless is to mention that the petitioner being agreeable to pay the outstanding amount, the G.R.O. shall consider reasonably to allow instalments to him and reconnect his electricity line, subject to payment

of 50% of the total outstanding amount as on date, as the first instalment.

14. With the aforesaid observations and directions, **WPA No. 28604 of 2026** is **disposed of**.

15. Urgent photostat certified copy of this order, if applied for, be supplied to the parties upon compliance with all requisite formalities.

(Rai Chattopadhyay, J.)