

Appeal No.2403-11/2022

Muhammad Saeed VS MEPCO

Reply to the Appeal No.2403-11/2022 filed by Muhammad Saeed.

Respectfully Sheweth:-

1. That the instant Appeal for the provision of requested information under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 is legally and factually not maintainable hence merits dismissal. In this regard, it is humbly submitted that as per request of the appellant of Mr.Muhammad Saeed, following public record is requested to be provided regarding MEPCO Staff:-

1.Installed Meter Consumers Nos. By Name and Designation

It is evident that the said information sought by the appellant regarding installed meters, consumer number by names and designations relates to the personal privacy of the MEPCO Employees / Consumers as MEPCO does not provide meters and connections in the name of Employees for Free units facility rather Employees provide consumer number / Reference number of connection to avail facility of Free Units these connections may be in the name of Family members or Land Lords of Property in which Employee is currently living. As per section of 7 (g) (h) and 16(c) of The Right of Access to Information 2017, Personal Information are excluded and cannot be provided to the third party as electricity connection is provided under a contract between MEPCO and Consumer.

However, briefly, total number of MEPCO Employee BPS wise and allocated of Units is enclosed in compliance of Hon' able Information Commission.

It is pertinent to mentioned here that in this era of Digitalization and Cyber Crime provision of Personal record and data of Employees belongs to Power Sector is not suitable. Power Sector is very essential Department of Govt having sensitive Installations. Provision of serving Employee's data security can bring the difficulties for them and for department too. The provided information meets the purpose of appellant.

Total Numbers 14716 of MEPCO Employees working in company and their details along with BPS are as under.

BPS	Total working	Free Units Allocated
1	980	100
2	23	100
3	14	100
4	8	100
5	13	150
6	249	150
7	3711	150
8	490	150
9	3938	150
11	1765	200
12	1	200
13	30	200

14	758	200
15	1758	200
16	478	300
17	351	450
18	140	600
19	20	680
20	9	1100
Total	14716	

2. Types of Meters Digital or No Digital.

Details of Type of Meters Digital or Non Digital is not separately categorized for employees hence not possible to provide.

3. Which MEPCO employees whose Meters are faulty, from which date are these faulty and how are their bills being collected.

In case meter is found defective, defective code is allotted to the consumer's account and billing is made on average basis i.e. 100% of the consumption recorded in the same months of previous year or average of the last eleven months which ever is higher as per policy.

4. Provide these information by Digital Disk (DVD).

All these information may be provided on DVD.

5. As WAPDA Employees get electricity on concessionary rate, it responsibility of the MEPCO to keep proper record of recipients of the concession with their particulars on its website.

There is no concessionary rate involved in billing of employees. They also pay the same tariff after using the allocated units, while payment of billing upto allocated units is made by the respective formation (MEPCO) etc. WAPDA employees are not getting any concessionary rate as explained above.

In this regard, it is humbly submitted that there is no concessionary rate involved in billing of employees. They also pay the same tariff after using the allotted units, while payment of billing upto allotted units is made by the respective formation (MEPCO) etc. WAPDA employees are not getting any concessionary rate as explained above.

In view of the above submissions, it is, therefore, respectfully prayed that the instant appeal filed by the appellant-Muhammad Saeed VS MEPCO may kindly be filed, in the interest of justice.

Before the Pakistan Information Commission, Government of
Pakistan, Islamabad.

Appeal No.2403-11/2022.

In re:

Muhammad Saeed.

Vs.

MEPCO.

**REPLY TO REJOINDER/ OBJECTIONS
FILED BY MUHAMMAD SAEED.**

Respectfully Sheweth:-

1. That detailed reply/information to the titled appeal has already been submitted by the answering respondent-department before this Hon'ble Commission through letter No.20-21 dated 20.06.2023. Now through the captioned Rejoinder/objection, the appellant has raised objection that reply submitted by the answering respondent-department does not meet his requirement regarding seeking of information. It is alleged in the said objection/ rejoinder that the order passed by this Hon'ble Commission was not implemented as this Hon'ble Commission in its order has directed to ensure proactive disclosure of all categories of information on its website as required under section 5 of the act 2017-including-name of employee consumer no of meter allotted to each employee and date wise status of each meter as required under section 5(1)(e) of the act 2017.

Above said rejoinder-objection raised by the appellant being misconceived merits rejection.

In this regard, it is humbly submitted that detailed reply has already been given by the answering respondent-department whereby information has been provided which can be viewed on MEPCO Website www.mepco.com/pk/media/news. However, with reference to rejoinder/objection raised by the appellant, it is submitted that as per order passed by this Hon'ble Commission in the titled appeal, not only required information has been provided to the appellant through this Hon'ble Commission but the same has also been uploaded on the official website of MEPCO. Detailed reply with reference to name of employee

and number of meter has also already been given as per provisions of Section 7 (g) and (h) and 16(c) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017. It is necessary to mention here that MEPCO-Department does not issue meter to any employee. The employee who wants to use the annual allotted units on any meter, its number is entered in the concerned Revenue Due to transfer of employees in different cities; these reference numbers are usually changed. Meters can be issued in the names of owners of the property or in the names of ladies of the families, thus the same comes within the meaning of third party and provision of said information/detail would be violation of Section 16(c) of the Act.

The department/MEPCO has never ever denied to provide the requisite information. The information which could be provided as per provisions of the Act, has already been provided.

All the expenses in respect of free units are borne by MEPCO Company from its O&M budget. There is no interference by any consumer in tariff of electricity, hence this facility cannot be termed as burden on the consumers. In such circumstances, plea of the appellant for providing the information as per section 5(1)(e) of the act 2017 is not correct. Above said section pertains to a condition according to which any facility is being given to members of public body, whereas, in the case of MEPCO, there is appointment letter of employment according to which employees become eligible for the facilities as per their basic pay scale.

In view of the above submissions, it is, therefore, respectfully prayed that the instant appeal filed by the appellant-Muhammad Saeed may kindly be filed, in the interest of justice.