

MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NOTIFICATION (DRAFT)

THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003.

No. MERC/Tech/Regulation/____.- In exercise of the powers conferred on it by sub-sections (r) and (s) of Section 181 read with sub-sections (5) to (7) of Section 42 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003) and all other powers enabling it in this behalf and after previous publication, the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission hereby makes the following Regulations, to amend Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum & Electricity Ombudsman) Regulations, 2020 (**‘the Principal Regulations’**), namely:

1. Short title and commencement

- 1.1 These Regulations may be called the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum & Electricity Ombudsman) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2024.
- 1.2 These Regulations shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Amendment to Regulation 3 of the Principal Regulations: -

- 2.1 Regulation 3.3 of the Principal Regulation shall be substituted by the following:

“3.3 A Distribution Licensee shall establish one (1) Forum in each distribution Circle falling within its area of supply:

Provided that where the area of supply is the city of Greater Mumbai and adjoining areas, each Distribution Licensee shall have at least one (1) Forum for such area of supply:

Provided further that the area of jurisdiction of the Forum shall be decided by the Distribution Licensee subject to any guidelines or directions that may be issued by the Commission, from time to time.

Provided also that Forum established under Principal Regulations with jurisdiction of more than one Circle shall henceforth function as Forum for the Circle in which it is located. However, all pending grievances as on date of notification of these Regulations before such Forum shall be decided by such Forum only without transferring it to Forum to be setup for respective Circle.

Explanation – for the purpose of this Regulation 3.3, the term “distribution Circle” shall mean the geographical area falling within the jurisdiction of a Circle office of the successor entities of the Board as may be vested with the functions of distributing electricity pursuant to re-organisation of the Board.”

- 2.2 Regulation 3.4 of the Principal Regulations stands deleted.

3. Amendment to Regulation 4 of the Principal Regulations:

3.1 Sub-clause (a) of Regulation 4.1 of the Principal Regulation shall be substituted by the following:

“(a) The Chairperson of the Forum shall be a retired senior judicial officer; or a retired civil servant not below the rank of an additional Collector or equivalent; or a retired Principal of a reputed Engineering college; or a retired Professor of the Electrical Engineering Department of a reputed institute; or a retired senior electrical engineer of the Government:

Provided that the Chairperson shall preferably have working knowledge of the vernacular language of the State of Maharashtra:

Provided further that the Chairperson shall be nominated by the Commission after inviting applications from interested persons and selecting from shortlisted candidates:

Provided also that the Commission may specifically direct the Licensee to conduct such selection process under the guidance of the Commission. In such case, the Commission shall nominate the selection committee:

Provided also that the Commission shall verify the integrity and background of such applicants;”

4. Amendment to Regulation 5 of the Principal Regulations:

4.1 Proviso to Regulation 5.3 of the Principal Regulations stands deleted.

4.2 Second and Third proviso to Regulation 5.4 of the Principal Regulations stands deleted.

5. Amendment to Regulation 16 of the Principal Regulations: -

5.1 Regulation 16.1 of the principal Regulations shall be substituted by the following:

“16.1 The Electricity Ombudsman shall be constituted from amongst a retired judge of a High Court or District Court, a retired Secretary to the Government or equivalent officer.”

6. Amendment to Appendix

6.1 Appendix 1 of the Principal Regulations stands deleted.

Mumbai

Dated: ____, 2024

(Dr. Rajendra G. Ambekar)

Secretary,

Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission