

ORDER SHEET  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI  
C.P. Nos. D-166, 286, 381, 687, 811, 893 and 1090 of 2025

Date	Order With Signature Of Judge
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14.03.2025.

Mr. Muhammad Ramzan, advocate for petitioners  
in C.P. Nos., D-166, 286, 381, 687, 811, 893 and 1090 of 2025.  
Mr. Farman Ali Gopang, advocate for petitioners  
in C.P. No. D-893 of 2025.  
Syed Fazalur Rehman, advocate for respondent No. 2.  
Mr. Neha Makhdoom, advocate holding brief for  
Mr. Muhammad Ali Lakhani, advocate for respondent No. 4.  
M/s. Iftikhar Hussain and Zulfiqar Ali Mirjat, advocate for KE.  
Mr. Muhammad Qasim Khan, Deputy Attorney General.

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**MUHAMMAD IQBAL KALHORO, J:-** All these petitions have been filed by retired employees of Pakistan Steel Mills, who are residing in the quarters etc. granted to them by PSM during service. Their grievance is that PSM was providing them electricity, and was charging 2% service charges against each connection. However, subsequently from October, 2024, PSM started enhancing the service charges initially at 80% and then at 102% from the next month.

2. Learned counsel for PSM has disputed this fact and submits that initially the electricity was being supplied to the petitioners on subsidized rates but after a Board Resolution dated 24.01.2024, a copy of which he has filed today along with the statement, it was decided by the Board of Directors that the residents of Gulshan-e-Hadeed and Steel Town, who have either retired/retrenched from PSM, the deduction of utility bills will be charged at purchased cost. This Board Resolution spells clearly that before this resolution, the petitioners and other ex-employees of PSM were being provided electricity on subsidized rates and after the resolution, the subsidy was withdrawn and they are now being charged at the purchased cost. In the resolution, there is no

reference to either service charges or any enhancement therein except the deduction of utilities bills will be charged at purchased cost. However, while explaining the service charges in Annexure-B, filed today through a statement, vide letter dated 01.01.2025, it has been said that service charges include losses and will be charged in proportion to the units consumed. And at present, said proportion, equal to Rs.32/- per unit, is being charged. Learned counsel for PSM has argued that before September 2024, the PSM was bearing the service charges itself, which was being imposed on it by the KE. However, after the Board Resolution, the service charges of Rs.32/- being already charged by KE, have been shifted to the petitioners in view of the fact that they are no more employees of PSM; hence, not entitled to any subsidy. Learned counsel for PSM has further proposed that if the petitioners are not satisfied with the service charges being imposed by PSM, they can independently apply to KE for a direct connection and PSM would, in this regard, facilitate the petitioners, subject to all the formalities.

3. After hearing the learned counsel for parties, we are of the view that firstly the dispute has the genesis in factual controversy as the petitioners are claiming that PSM is charging service charges over and above the purchased price, whereas, PSM is claiming that before September 2024 they were providing subsidy to the petitioners which has been withdrawn after the Board Resolution and therefore there is no question of overcharging the petitioners. The question whether PSM was providing electricity to the petitioners on subsidized cost or not before September 2024 can only be decided after recording evidence and appraising the documentary evidence to be filed by the respective parties in support of their respective claims, and not otherwise. Admittedly, we in the constitutional jurisdiction cannot undertake such an exercise.

4. The option given by PSM in such circumstances appears to be fair: i.e. that if the petitioners, who are ex-employees of PSM, are not happy with the current cost of electricity charges by PSM, may apply to KE for a direct connection.

5. Therefore, we dispose of these petitions by directing the KE and PSM Authorities to facilitate the petitioners to get a direct connection from KE, if they are unwilling to pay the current price including service charges being charged by PSM. However, till date they are provided connection, which shall not take more than two months after application is filed by the petitioners, the petitioners shall be provided electricity by PSM subject to payment of all charges by PSM and subject to all such payments, no coercive action shall be taken against them.

These petitions are accordingly disposed of in above terms along with pending applications.

JUDGE

JUDGE

HANIF



