

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 17, 1966/Phalguna 26,  
1887 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rates of Electricity for Industries

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\*593. Shri Yashpal Singh:

Shri Bagri:

Shri Kishen Pattanayak:

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:

Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:

Shri Uttya:

Shri Vishram Prasad:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and  
Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is  
a great difference in the rate of elec-  
tricity which is supplied to the cottage  
industries, small scale industries and  
sugar industries in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government  
to rationalise the rate of electricity  
supplied to the above mentioned in-  
dustries?

The Minister of State in the Minis-  
try of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L.  
Rao): (a) to (c). A statement is laid  
on the Table of the House.

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c). The tariff rate for sugar  
industries is comparatively lower than  
that for cottage and small scale indus-  
tries because the load demands in the

case of sugar industry are compara-  
tively much higher and supply to them  
is given at high voltage instead of  
lower voltage as is the case with small  
scale and cottage industries. In order  
to encourage the growth of small scale  
and cottage industries, the Govern-  
ment introduced in 1959 a scheme of  
subsidy whereby in the case of small  
industrial units with a connected load  
upto 20 H.P. the rate in excess of  
1-1/2 annas (9.37 paise per unit) is  
subsidized by the Centre and the res-  
pective State Governments in equal  
proportions provided such subsidy does  
not exceed 1-1/2 annas per unit.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : रिहन्द से बिड़ला  
साहब को जो बिजली दी जा रही है वह  
तीन पैसे प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से दी जा रही  
है और किसान को जो बिजली दी जा रही है  
वह 19 पैसे प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से दी  
जा रही है। इस स्टेटमेंट से यह पता नहीं  
चलता कि इस इतनी बड़ी डिमैण्ड को  
कैसे पूरा किया जाएगा ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: Rihand is a special  
category. The question does not arise  
here because this relates to sugar in-  
dustry. Nevertheless I would like to  
submit that in Bihar power that is  
being supplied to alumina is a special  
power industry, special power intensive  
industry. Therefore, the rate for  
that is always much less than what is  
possible for being supplied to the other  
smaller loads. The reason for this kind  
of a difference had been mentioned in  
the statement.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार यह  
बतला सकती है कि इस वक्त कुल कितना  
फरक है, सारे देश में इस वक्त ज्यादा से ज्यादा  
बिजली की दर कौनसी है और कम से कम  
कौन सी है ?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** The rates differ for various types of loads. For example, in this particular case the cottage industries rate is anything from 8 to 12 nP; for cottage and small-scale industries it is something like 8 to 20 nP; for the heavy industry it is about 8 to 12 nP. This kind of variation is bound to be there because of the reasons mentioned in the statement.

**श्री बागड़ी:** क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि भारत की कुल बिजली का कितना हिस्सा जमीन का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए खर्च होता है और कितना उद्योग पर, और उनकी दरों में क्या अन्तर है ?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** The industrial demand for power utilisation in the country varies from 45 to 75 per cent and the amount of power used for agricultural purposes varies from 24 per cent in Madras to as low as one per cent in some other States. With regard to agricultural rates, government has said recently that it would subsidise rates above 12 nP. For the heavy industry of course the power rates will be much less.

**श्री किशन पटनायक :** भारी उद्योगों को जो गिरायती दर पर बिजली दी जाती है, क्या वह लागत खर्च में भी कम होती है ? और सारे देश के पैमाने पर अगर लागत खर्च से कम है तो कुल कितना नुकसान राज्य सरकारों और केन्द्र सरकार को होता है ?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** For the heavy industry the rate was fixed for earning a profit, and not a loss, it is only in the case of specially negotiated industries as I said with regard to power intensive industries like alumina, fertiliser and so on, in these special cases the power rates are negotiated as far as possible not to incur a loss. In some cases power rate has been less than the cost of production.

**Shri Kishan Pattnayak:** I want to know the total amount of loss in negotiated industries.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** That will not be possible to give.

**डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया :** यह मैं माने लेता हूँ कि आप पिम्परी और कोटा के कारखानों को 6 पैसे की दर पर बिजली दे रहे हैं, हालांकि मेरी इत्तला है कि तीन पैसे पर दे रहे हैं। और सिचाई की बिजली की दर आप ने कितनी बनायी ?

एक माननीय सदस्य : 12 पैसे।

**डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया :** लेकिन मुझे मालूम है कि बिजली की दर सिचाई के लिए कहीं बीस पैसे और कहीं 24 पैसे है। यह मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूँ कि बाद में यह न कहें कि हम से भूल हो गयी।

तो प्रश्न यह है कि जब पहले से तीन गुना, चार गुना और पांच गुना फक है दरों में, तो क्या मंत्री महोदय ने अध्ययन किया है कि बिजली की कमी के कारण बहुत कुछ सिचाई जो हो सकती थी वह आज नहीं हो पा रही है, और कायदे कानून भी ऐसे बने हुए हैं कि अगर कहीं कोई एक ट्यूब वेल हो तो उसके एक मील या आधे मील या चौथाई मील की दूरी पर दूसरा ट्यूब वेल नहीं हो सकता, और उसका नतीजा यह है कि . . .

**उपाध्यक्ष महोदय :** आप तो बयान दे रहे हैं।

**डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया :** ठीक है, अगर उनको यह मालूम है तो बता दें कि क्या इस के लिए कुछ कर रहे हैं ?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** With regard to the first part of the question, in respect of the rate for agriculture, I would submit that the rates vary from 8 paise to 20 paise in various parts of the country. Why I said that it was 12 paise is because of this: the Government of India has recently passed orders that above 12 paise, whatever be the amount, it will be subsidised by the Government and that is why I said it is 12 paise. Otherwise, the rate

varies from eight paise in Madras and Andhra Pradesh to as much as 20 paise in parts of Uttar Pradesh.

With regard to the other part of the question, I wish to submit once again that we charge the industries at less than what we charge for other purposes like pumping, cottage and small-scale industries. There are three reasons for this. The first is, for the heavy industries we supply at what is called high voltage, that is, 3300 volts, whereas for the other purposes, we supply at a lower voltage, say 400 volts. Therefore, we have to have more equipment for the supply of load for domestic or small-scale industry. Secondly, most of the power that is taken in the heavy industries is nearly 100 to 1,000 times more than the power that is taken for agriculture, pumping and small-scale industries. Thirdly, in the case of pumping for agriculture, for example, the time in which power is required is only 10 per cent of the year, whereas in the case of heavy industries the percentage of time during which power is supplied is about 60. Therefore, on account of these three reasons, the rates for industry have got to be naturally less than those for other categories of loads.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मिर्जापुर के रिहन्द डैम से मिलने वाली बिजली का कितना प्रतिशत मिर्चाई के लिए दिया जाता है और कितना प्रतिशत बिड़ला के अल्युमीनियम कारखाने को, और उन दोनों की दरों में कितना अन्तर है, क्या इस भारी अन्तर के कारण खेती के उत्पादन पर बुरा असर पड़ रहा है, यदि हाँ, तो उसको दूर करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is not possible to give the figure for agricultural pumping and particularly for the aluminium industry, because it is one local industry there. The power taken by the industry, the aluminium industry, if I remember rightly, is about

55 megawatts, out of the total of 105 which is about one-half of the total power available at Rihand. I quite appreciate that we should give the utmost attention to agricultural pumping. If the hon. Member has got any particular place to mention where power for agriculture and pumping for agricultural purposes has not been given, we would look into it and we will try to give it.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : प्राप बैठिए।

श्री रामसेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If you are not satisfied, you may take some other occasion to raise it. You may raise a half-hour discussion; there are other methods.

Shri Ram Sewak Yadav: The answer has not come.

Shri Ranga: It is not the proper answer.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: You cannot go on discussing it in the Question Hour.

Shri Ranga: You cannot expect proper co-operation unless they deal with them properly.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ने यह जानना चाहा था कि रेट में क्या अन्तर है और उसको दूर करने के लिए क्या कोई कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद : धर्मो धर्मो मंत्री जी ने बताया कि क्योंकि अल्युमीनियम की जो इंडस्ट्री है वह स्पेशल है इसलिए वहाँ तीन नए रेटों पर बिजली दी जा रही है। लेकिन मैं बताऊँ कि जिस वक़्त यह रिहन्द डैम बनने वाला था तो इसकी खुदाई डा० सम्पूर्णानन्द

ने चांदी के कावड़े में आरम्भ की थी और उस वक्त यह कहा गया था कि इस बांध से उत्तर प्रदेश के 24 पूर्वी जिलों को सस्ती बिजली दी जाएगी लेकिन आज हो यह रहा है कि बिड़ला को तो तीन पैसे पर बिजली मिल रही है और किसानों को जो कि खेती का उत्पादन बढ़ाना चाहते हैं 19 नए पैसे पर मिलती है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार किसानों को सस्ती बिजली देने का कष्ट करेगी या नहीं ?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I do not know exactly what the hon. Member says. The answer I have already given covers the particular aspect of this problem. For the reasons that I have already given, it is not possible for us to give power for agricultural pumping at rates less than those for heavy industry and more so for an industry like the aluminium industry, because of the various reasons I have already mentioned; the question has been very carefully gone into, and it was thought that 12 paise is an economical rate and that is why the Government of India has thought that this rate is a proper one and has fixed it. If there is any State where the rates are higher, they are subsidised. So, for all practical purposes, the rate is only 12 paise.

**Shri Shashi Ranjan:** For the last two years, we have been demanding uniformity of rates of electricity throughout India for the different categories of industries. The minister also assured us, but so far it has not been implemented. Just now the minister has given certain rates of electricity for small-scale industries and cottage industries. May I know if that rate holds good for Bihar State?

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** Uniform rates have been introduced in 9 States including Bihar. There are only four States where uniform rates have not been introduced, namely, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Even in these four States we expect to introduce uniform rates in the course of this year. In Maharashtra,

an attempt was made to introduce uniform rates, but the matter was taken to the court. We have brought a Bill before the House saying that there should be no objection for having uniform rates.

**Shri Shashi Ranjan:** The assurance given by the minister was uniform rates throughout India; now he talks of uniformity in individual States.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** We never stated that there will be uniform rates throughout India. That would be possible only when we have an all-India grid system, which may take 5 or 10 years.

**Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar:** May I know whether the rates vary from State to State in respect of the three categories of consumers—heavy industries, small-scale industries and agriculturists—and in view of the necessity of increased agricultural production, what steps the government will take to see that the States fall in line and have a uniform rate throughout the country?

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed):** The rates vary from State to State because the rates depend upon various factors—particularly whether power is generated through hydel, steam or diesel. We have taken one step, i.e. to make within a State the rate uniform for similar consumers. About 9 or 10 States have already taken steps in the direction. But unless and until we have an all-India grid system throughout the country, it will not be possible to have uniform rates through India.

The rates for agriculture also vary from State to State. But wherever the rate exceeds 12 paise, the excess will be subsidised by the Central and State Governments. Where the rates are less than 12 paise, the question of subsidy does not arise.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री शिव नारायण . .

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : यह सवाल पिछले 15 मिनट से चल रहा है और अगर एक ही

सवाल इस तरह से 15 मिनट चलाया जायेगा तो एक घंटे में कौ सवाल आ सकेंगे ?

**श्री शिव नारायण :** यह हमारी सरकार समाजवादी समाज की स्थापना के लिए कृतसंकल्प है, यह सोशलिस्टिक पैट्रन ग्रोफ़ सोसाइटी वाली सरकार है। अब अन्न एक प्रमुख और आवश्यक चीज है जबकि अलमोनियम वैसी नहीं है और जाहिर है कि अलमोनियम से अन्न की समस्या हल नहीं होगी लेकिन आप अलमोनियम की फैक्टरी वालों को तो 3 पैसे के हिसाब से बिजली दे रहे हैं जबकि किसानों को 19 पैसे के हिसाब से बिजली सप्लाई कर रहे हैं तो यह दोनों में इतना भारी अन्तर क्यों है और यह समाजवादी समाज की स्थापना के ध्येय से किस तरह मेल खाता है ?

**श्री राजेश्वरानन्द :** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह अलमोनियम से क्या आप देशवासियों का पेट भरेंगे ? देश को आज पेट भरने के लिए अलमोनियम की नहीं बल्कि अनाज की जरूरत है . . .

**उपाध्यक्ष महोदय :** आर्डर, आर्डर। स्वामी जो आप बैठ जाइये। मैं ने आप को नहीं बुलाया है।

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** I may submit, Sir, that aluminium is a very important material not only for the general industrialisation of the country but even for electrification. The main obstacle now why we are not able to send electricity to some of the villages is because we do not have sufficient aluminium which is the basic material for rural electrification. Therefore, we must produce more aluminium in this country. We are only producing 50,000 tons per year whereas it should have been 5 lakh tons. Aluminium is the basic material on which rural electrification depends.

Some hon. Members rose—

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Let us go to the next question.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** Sir, you did not call a single Opposition Member whose name is not on the list, whereas you called many Members from the Congress side (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I called Six hon. Members from the Opposition, all of them whose names are on the list. I have given chance only to three Members from the Congress (*Interruptions*).

**Shri Kapur Singh:** We should have been called. . . . (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have spent 15 minutes on this.

**Shri P. Venkatasubbalah:** Sir, what does the hon. Member mean by passing such remarks? (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. Let us go to the next question.

#### Audit Report on National Defence Fund

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\*594. **Shri Vishram Prasad:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri Bagri:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the final Audit Report on the accounts of the National Defence Fund collections made in various States;

(b) if so, whether any irregularities have been detected;

(c) Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the action taken in the matter?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri):** (a) Yes, Sir. The comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the accounts of the National Defence Fund have been included in the Audit Reports (Civil), 1965 and 1966, already laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Yes, Sir. Audited accounts had not been received by the Citizens'