

with the prices of locomotives on sale in outside markets?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: So far as BG Goods steam locomotives are concerned, the ones we manufacture at Chittaranjan are much cheaper than the ones that we imported before. So far as diesel and electric locomotives are concerned, we cannot compare the prices yet.

Electricity Rates

*50. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) at what rate power is made available in each State to (i) small scale industry (ii) agricultural sector and (iii) large scale industry;

(b) cases where power is given below tariff rate and below cost price and reasons for the same; and

(c) whether a detailed statement will be laid on the Table?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): (a) and (c). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 6].

(b) The tariff for industrial and agricultural purposes in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, is lower than the average cost of generation and supply. The tariff has been so fixed by the State Electricity Boards concerned with a view to promoting industrial and agricultural production.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It would be obvious from the statement that the rates charged to the small scale industries as well as to agricultural purposes are much higher than the rates charged to large scale industries. May I know if it is in consonance with the policy of the Government and whether Government have revised their decision in this matter indicated earlier while discussing the Plan?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: The power to take decisions in this matter lies with the State Governments. What I can do is that I will bring that point to the notice of the States concerned, which has been raised by my hon. friend here.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: We have got here at the centre a Central Water and Power Commission. May I know what is the responsibility of that particular Board or Commission, and whether this matter has occurred to the Central Government only now when I have put the question or they have considered it earlier?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: The responsibilities of the States and the Centre are stated in the Constitution and the rules of procedure. As far as the liaison between the Centre and the States in this particular matter is concerned, the position is that we have to depend upon the States. It is for them to revise these things. We can only advise them and it is open to them to accept or not accept our advice. I said I will advise them as my hon. friend suggested.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: The policy in this regard is laid down by the Central Government and the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission and the Central Government have both advised the State Government that the small scale industries should be given certain incentives, and concession in power rate is included as one of those incentives. May I know what action has been taken by the Government to see that this advice is properly followed by the States?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: Yes. This advice was given. I will draw the attention of my hon. friend to the figures in the statement that I have furnished. That has been acted upon and in the case of small scale industries and agricultural purposes the rates are lower than before.

Shri Morarka: Is it not a fact that the cost of energy supplied to the ulti-

mate consumer is 34.13 nP in Rajasthan whereas it is only 4.63 nP in Orissa and 6.05 nP in Mysore; if so, may I know what is the reason for charging six to eight times more the ultimate consumer in Rajasthan as compared to other places?

Mr. Speaker: That is exactly what the hon. Minister stated.

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: The expenditure differs from place to place according to the principal features and other circumstances. The States cannot have a uniform rate in this connection if they are allowed to earn something over it.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that one of the biggest suppliers, the D.V.C., supplies in bulk to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation and they are charging small scale industry 19 nP, the highest compared to any other State in the whole of India, may I know whether the Central Government proposes to look into the question of increase in rates which the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation has now started since the end of March?

Mr. Speaker: Are we to go into details State by State?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: I will look into that question.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: Sir, from the statement it is obvious that in every State for small scale industry the rate is very high. The hon. Minister stated that it is the concern of the State Government. But the Electricity Boards are formed with the guidance of the Central Government. May I ask the hon. Minister to see that at least the advice in this regard....

Mr. Speaker: What does he want now? He may put his question.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: I am asking whether the Central Government has advised the State Governments to help the cause of the small-scale industries.

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Have the State Governments the blessing and support of the Central Government in selling electricity to large enterprises at a price which is lower than the cost of production?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: It is not as if in every individual case the Centre is consulted by the State Governments.

Dr. Melkote: Is it not a fact that in 1952 or 1953 power generation and transmission was nationalised. In view of the above, had not the Central Government sent instructions to the State Government to fall in line with the tariff suggested by them? In view of that, can the Central Government not take action whenever the States do not move with the times?

Mr. Speaker: Now we are entering into argument instead of asking for information.

Shri Tyagi: May I take it that the Planning Commission or the Government of India have not taken any action with regard to reducing the rates of electricity for small industries in the States? What has happened to the attempt of the Government of India to bring about uniform rates all over India?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: I have already said that the Government of India did advise in certain cases. That advice has not actually been acted upon by the States.

Shri Hanumanthai: Is it true that in the case of big industries the supply is bulk supply and in the case of small industries and agriculture it is small-scale supply and that is the reason for the difference in rates?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: That is also a reason.

Shri Tyagi: Last time in answer to a question the Government had stated that they were making efforts to en-

force uniform rates all over India. May I know whether that intention is still being implemented?

Haji Mohammad Ibrahim: My hon. friend is putting into my mouth something which I have not said. I have never said that we are going to introduce uniform rates throughout the whole of India. I think it is an impossibility; it cannot be achieved. We can try to achieve it to the extent possible.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: I suggest that S.Q. No. 55 may also be taken up, as it relates to the same subject.

Mr. Speaker: It may also be taken up if the hon. Minister has no objection.

Export of Sugar

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*51. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to step up the export of sugar during this year; and

(b) the results achieved?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Every effort is being made to step up export of sugar by booking business wherever possible and securing quota from U.S.A. which is highly preferential market.

(b) A quota of 50,000 short tons has been obtained from U.S.A. for immediate shipment and 1.05 lakh metric tons have been sold for export to Canada, Malaya and Middle East countries for shipment mostly upto 30th June. Further sales are in progress. Nearly 46,000 metric tons have been exported during January—March against sales made last year.

Sugar Purchase by U.S.A.

*55. { **Shri Osman Ali Khan:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Aazad:
Shri Basappa:
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Agriculture Department has of late offered to purchase increased quantities of sugar during the ensuing six months;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) on what terms?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (c). U.S.A. has agreed to import 50,000 short tons of sugar during the first half of 1962, against purchase of cotton.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The hon. Deputy Minister was pleased to say that further sales are in progress. May I know the nature of those further sales and the countries to which those sales are made?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We cannot now say to which countries we are going to sell. As there is no quota restriction, we can now sell to any country which wants it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the rates at which sugar is supplied to U.S.A. are different from the rates at which sugar is supplied to other countries? If so, what is the discrepancy between the rates obtainable in U.S.A. and in other countries?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The approximate realisation on sugar per ton which is exported to the United States of America is roundabout Rs. 550 whereas for sales in the world market we realise only about Rs. 350. Our cost of production comes to about Rs. 800.