

ing to distribute cement that is available in as judicious a manner as possible and we are trying to see that the projects which are in advanced stages of production, in advanced stages of completion, are accelerated and those projects which have not started or which are in the beginning stage, are given less importance.....

Shri Ranga: Therefore, it is being delayed.

Dr. K. L. Rao: One has got to do all these things when one is faced with scarcity and when there are many other demands like Defence and so on, I suppose.

Shri Nath Pai: How does he reconcile with his earlier reply?

Mr. Speaker: It is not for me to comment.....

Shri Ranga: That means, his Ministry is not effective in getting priority.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot offer any comments on that.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know the reasons for the delay in the preparation of the master plan for tackling the colossal problem of erosion and floods in Assam, and whether this delay is due to shortage of cement also?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The main question relates only to cement. The hon. Member is talking about erosion and flood control in Assam. That is a separate question.

Mr. Speaker: That is not relevant here.

Power Rates in New Delhi

*552. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Delhi Municipal Committee has raised the rate of power supply with retrospective effect; and

(b) whether it has severely affected the consumers at large?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) No, Sir.

STATEMENT

The New Delhi Municipal Committee holds Electric Licence under the Indian Electricity Act and purchases electrical energy from the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking for distribution of the same in its area. Electricity is distributed by the New Delhi Municipal Committee to the following five categories of consumers:—

1. Light and fans (Domestic and Commercial)
2. Power/domestic
3. Power/commercial
4. Road lighting
5. Bulk supply to large consumers.

There has been no change in the rate in so far as the first four categories are concerned except for the levy of one paise per unit imposed by the Delhi Municipal Corporation on electricity with effect from 1-7-1959. In so far as category (5) is concerned, the rate of electricity supply has to vary as per DESU's rate. This year also the DESU intimated the provisional rate of 9.25 paise per unit for the year 1964-65 as against 8 paise per unit for 1963-64 and accordingly the New Delhi Municipal Committee had to revise its bulk supply rate with effect from 1st April, 1964 subject to further adjustment on finalisation. The revision of the rate of this category of consumers has always to be made with retrospective effect because the actual cost of supply which is worked out by the DESU cannot be finalized till the accounts of that year are closed and audited.

श्री भागवत झा ब्राजाद : इस विवरण के अनुसार प्रथम चार श्रेणियों पर तो सिर्फ 1 न०

पै० प्रति यूनिट लगाया गया है, लेकिन पांचवीं श्रेणी जिसका सम्बन्ध इस दिल्ली शहर के 95 प्रतिशत नागरिकों से है उस पर बहुत बड़े रूप में लगाया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस के क्या कारण हैं कि जब प्रथम श्रेणी के उपभोक्ताओं के ऊपर, जो कि साधारणतः अच्छे क्लास के हैं, अधिक नहीं लगाया गया है, तब पांचवीं श्रेणी के ऊपर जो साधारणतः निम्नश्रेणी के लोग हैं, इतना पैसा लगाया गया है।

Shri P. S. Naskar: This increase of one paisa per unit has been made in the case of four categories only, which have been mentioned in the statement. The Delhi Municipal Corporation was imposing an electricity levy of one paisa per unit with effect from 1st July, 1959. That is collected by the NDMC and remitted to the Delhi Municipal Corporation. But as regards category 5, that is, bulk supply to large consumers the term 'large consumers' does not mean that 75 per cent of the population is involved. It only means the consumers who use electricity in bulk; there are only 55 such consumers in the NDMC area. The rate charged on them by the DESU varies, because the rate is fixed up at the end of the financial year. But before the final rate is fixed, some provisional rate is mentioned. This year, as the hon. Member has said, 9.5 paise per unit has been mentioned in the contract between the NDMC and the bulk suppliers, and there is a clause in the agreement that the rate would be varied after the end of the financial year.

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने पूछा था, जवाब मिला इमली। उन्होंने अपने प्रथम बयान में जो कुछ कहा वही तो मैंने खुद कहा है कि मैं जानता हूँ कि 1 नया पैसा उन चार श्रेणियों के उपभोक्ताओं पर लगाया गया जो साधारणतः अच्छे हैं। मैंने कारण जानना चाहा कि पांचवीं श्रेणी के लोग

हैं जिन को विवरण में बल्क कंज्यूमर्स कहा गया है, उनकी बिजली की जो दर बढ़ाई जा रही है, उसका क्या कारण है। उसका कोई कारण जानने को नहीं मिला और सदन का इतना समय लग गया।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (डा० सुशोला नायर) : माननीय सदस्य की समझ में कुछ फेर हुआ है क्योंकि जो पहली चार श्रेणियाँ हैं, लाइट और फैन, उन को गरीब से गरीब आदमी भी इस्तेमाल करता है। डोमेस्टिक पावर, कामगार पावर, रोड लाइटिंग नवमान्य सम्पन्न आम जनता इन चार कटेगरीज में आ जाती है। पांचवीं कटेगरी जो है, उन लोगों के बड़े बड़े कारखाने चलते हैं और बहुत बड़ी बड़ी, बल्क सप्लाई में वह बिजली लेते हैं। उनका रेट पहले से ही इस प्रकार से है कि सामान्यतः लोगों को जो बिजली मिलती है उस से उनको सम्पत्ति मिलती है। फिर उनको उसमें से कमाई भोग्य होती है, नफा होता है। सरकार को आश्चर्य यह भी तो देखना है कि जो लोग नफा कमाने हैं उन पर बोझ पड़े बजाय इसके कि नवमान्य नागरिकों पर बोझ पड़े।

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : इस में कहा गया है कि बल्क कंज्यूमर्स के लिये इस वर्ष भी यानी 1964-65 में 8 नये पैसे के बजाय 9.25 नये पैसे हो जायेंगे, और यह कहा गया है कि हम नहीं कह सकते हैं कि इस वर्ष रिट्रोस्पेक्टिवली लेंगे या कब से और कितना बढ़ायेंगे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो प्लेक्टिसिटी के उपभोक्ता इस शहर में हैं उनके लिए यह किस नियम या कानून के अन्दर कहा जाता है कि हम नहीं बतला सकते कि कब से होगा। जब लोग बिजली का उपयोग कर चुके होंगे तब बतलाया जायेगा कि हम बढ़ायेंगे या नहीं, यह किस नियम के अन्तर्गत है ?

डा० सुशोला नायर : उन लोगों के साथ जो कगर नामा किया जाता है उसमें यह कल

लिखा हुआ है । जैसा माननीय उप-मंत्री जी ने बतलाया जब डी० ई० एम० यू० ही हम को नहीं बतलाती कि क्या रेट लेंगे, तो एन० डी० एम० सी० कैसे पहले से बतला सकती है । इसलिए यह कहा गया कि अगर डी० ई० एम० यू० रेट बढ़ायेंगी तो आप को भी ज्यादा देना पड़ेगा । वह लाइसेंस की धारा के अन्दर दाखिल किया हुआ है ।

श्री भागवत शर्मा : हमारा साधा सम्बन्ध डी० ई० एम० यू० से नहीं है । हमारा साधा सम्बन्ध एन० डी० एम० सी० से है । अगर एन० डी० एम० सी०, डी० ई० एम० यू० से अपना प्रश्न हल नहीं करा सकती है तो यह कोई कारण नहीं है कि गलत नियम को वह हम उपभोक्ताओं पर भी लागू कर दे । वह अपना फैसला उस से कर ले । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि एन० डी० एम० सी० किस नियम के अधीन अपने उपभोक्ताओं को मजबूर करती है और कहती है कि हम एक साल के बाद या डेढ़ साल के बाद इतना चार्ज करेंगे या रिट्रास्पेक्टिवली करेंगे । वह अपना फैसला डी० ई० एम० यू० से करें, हम पर क्यों ज्यादाती करना चाहते हैं ।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब बल्क किंज्यूस जो लोग हैं वे अधिकांश में उद्योगों में लगे हुए हैं और जब कि हमारी नीति है कि उद्योग बढ़ाये जायें ताकि माल सस्ता हो, तो क्या कारण है कि उद्योगों पर इतना अधिक पैसा बढ़ाया जा रहा है । सरकार डी० ई० एम० यू० को रोकती क्यों नहीं है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप इन्फ्लेशन नहीं लेना चाहते । जब आप सवाल करें तो आपको इन्फ्लेशन लेनी चाहिये ।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं ने एक साधारण सा प्रश्न पूछा उद्योगपतियों के बारे में ।

डा० सुशीला नायर : उद्योगपतियों को पहले से ही काफी कंसेशन दिया जाता है ।

मिसाल के तौर पर लाइट और फन का इस्तेमाल करने वालों को 22 न० प० पर यूनिट देने पड़ते हैं, डोमेस्टिक पावर कामर्शल रेट पर . . .

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं बल्क सप्लाय वालों के बारे में पूछ रहा हूँ ।

डा० सुशीला नायर : जो बल्क सप्लाय वाले हैं उन को पहले 2000 यूनिट पर 18.5 पैसे, अगले 5000 यूनिट पर 15.3 पैसे, अगले 5000 यूनिट पर 12.3 पैसे और उसके बाद 11.5 पैसे, देने पड़ते हैं । इस तरह से उन को पहले से ही कम रेट पर दिया हुआ है ।

Shri D. C. Sharma: What are the tangible and intangible relationships of DESU with the breakdown of power supply in the city? Is it not a fact that the more the rates increase, the larger is the number of breakdowns of power supply and the greater the duration of the breakdowns?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: It is not possible for me to give any answer regarding breakdowns.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: One point has remained unanswered, that is, why the raising of the rates retrospectively has been countenanced?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: I have explained that if at the end of the year DESU says 'we have revised the rates from the first of April', naturally the NDMC has to tell the consumers that the rates are subject to that contingency. The only other alternative is for the NDMC to charge them very high rates from the very beginning, which they would not like either.

Shri R. S. Pandey: In Delhi city, the electricity supply is less than the demand, and that is why the decision is taken to increase the rate. If this is so, what is the remedy? Is it going to be proposed to supply adequate electricity and reduce the rate?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: The question might very well be put to the concerned Ministry.

Shri Shiv Charan Gupta: May I know if there is any disparity in the rates prevailing in the New Delhi Municipal Committee area and in the Municipal Corporation area? If so, will Government take steps to bring about uniformity?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: Each local body is authorised statutorily to fix its own rates, and it fixes them according to its own expenditure.

River Boards

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*553. { **Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to establish River Boards as envisaged in Section 4 of the River Boards Act, 1956?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): Creation of River Boards is not considered necessary at this stage. The matter is, however, being examined further.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: What are the reasons which have led Government to think that they are not necessary?

Dr. K. L. Rao: There are two reasons in particular. These boards were intended for drawing up for the country planning and investigations of irrigation and power projects. For this, we have already got a very adequate body, namely the Central Water and Power Commission and the State organisations, and they are doing this work satisfactorily. It was not considered necessary to have a separate body again.

Then, again, under section 4 of the Act, it is necessary that the States must also agree to the setting up of these River Boards, and we find that a large number of States like U.P., Maharashtra, Mysore and so on, have objected to the setting up of these Boards.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Has it been brought to the notice of the Minister that there are still many untapped resources, that if such Boards are formed they would be able to make proper investigation on the spot and that the Central Water and Power Commission has not got so much resources at its command to reach each and every corner of the country?

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is considered more economical to strengthen the Central Water and Power Commission, if necessary, to carry out investigations in any particular place, but we find that most often the States are able to do the investigation and planning themselves. In the case of particular States like Assam where such facilities do not exist, if they make a request, the Central Government is prepared to undertake it.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know whether it is a fact that by and large the States are reluctant to have such Boards set up, and if so, whether Government proposes to annul this Act of 1957?

Dr. K. L. Rao: Quite so. This Act has not been used so far. So, it is really a matter for consideration whether there should be an amendment of the Act to make it more useful.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Is it a fact that the Central Water and Power Commission has been found insufficient to deal with the inter-State power and irrigation problems and disputes, and that the River Boards were designed to solve these very things? How is the Government going to solve these problems which were supposed to be solved by these Boards, without creating them?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The River Boards were not intended to solve the inter-State problems. They have to be solved at the governmental level.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to take up flood control and