

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
POWER  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4516  
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2000  
COMMITTEE ON POWER TARIFF  
A. VENKATESH NAIK

**Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government propose to conduct a meeting of State Power Ministers to reconsider the matter relating to hike in power tariffs in agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

( SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA )

(a) : No, Sir.

(b) : Does not arise.

(c) : The Chief Ministers` Conferences held on 16th October and 3rd December, 1996 adopted a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNAPP) which stipulated that no sector shall pay less than 50% of the average cost of supply (cost of generation plus transmission and distribution system). Tariffs for agricultural sector would not be less than 50 paise per Kwh which would be brought to 50% of the average cost in not more than 3 years.

Government of India have enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. The Act enables the State Governments to establish State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Under the provisions of the Act, State Regulatory Commissions have been empowered to fix retail tariff within the State. As per Section 29(5) if the State Government require the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Commission, the State Government shall pay the amount to compensate the person affected by the grant of subsidy in the manner the State Commission may direct. So far, fourteen States have notified/constituted State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.