

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6768
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2003
POWER SUPPLY TO FARMERS
V. VETRISLVAN

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the two-decades-old free power supply scheme for 17 lakh agricultural connections in Tamil Nadu has been scraped recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of small and marginal farmers affected as a result thereof; and
- (d) the compensation proposed to be given to these farmers to reduce their burden?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : In discharge of its statutory responsibilities which inter alia include the requirement of having the tariffs progressively reflect the cost of supply, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission in March, 2003 has introduced tariff for agriculture consumer at the rate of Rs.250/horse power per annum for unmetered supply or 20 paise per unit for metered supply. A monthly minimum charges of Rs.25 has been fixed for metered supply.

(c) & (d) : There are 9.41 lakhs small and marginal farmers in the State of Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to provide Rs.1000 per annum as cash support in two instalments to small and marginal farmers to ensure continuance of free electricity supply to them.