

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1862
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2002
DUES TO RAILWAYS FROM POWER PLANTS
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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bankrupt State Electricity Boards make a kill out of Railway Kitty" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated February 1, 2002;
- (b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken the matter with the different SEBs in regard to special rate of SEB for supply of power to Railways;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total loss suffered by Railways in regard to difference in the rate of electricity to Railways and other commercial organisations in the respective States, state-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to make the losses good?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details of the action taken by this Ministry in regard to purchase of power for electric traction are as under: -

(i) Power supply authorities are being constantly persuaded to reduce tariff to make it reasonable.

(ii) State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have been set up in 13 states. In 11 States, the zonal Railways have approached SERCs. During current financial year after successful presentations, reduction of 1 to 4% in tariff has been achieved in UP, Delhi, Maharashtra & Haryana. In Andhra Pradesh there has been no increase in tariff. It has also been possible to limit the increase in two states i.e. Rajasthan & Madhya Pradesh.

(iii) Taking recourse to legal action wherever considered inescapable.

(d) Details of the differential payment made to States due to higher traction tariff being charged by SEBs in comparison to the industrial and commercial organisation are given in Annexure.

(e) In addition to the steps taken as mentioned in part (c) of the reply following actions are also being taken to reduce the electric traction fuel bill of Railways: -

(i) Availing of direct power supply from Central Generating Agencies such as National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd (NTPC), Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC).

(ii) Exploring possibility of setting up of captive power plants through joint venture with National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC).