

భారత రాష్ట్ర సమితి
BHARAT RASHTRA SAMITHI

Office : Telangana Bhavan, Road No : 10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500 034.

Date : 21/10/2024

K. TARAKA RAMA RAO

Working President

To,

The Chairman,

Electricity Regulatory Commission,

Hyderabad, Telangana.

Subject: Request to Reject Electricity Tariff Hike proposals by the Government of Telangana

Respected Sir,

I hope this letter finds you well. I write to you on behalf of the public to express our grave concerns regarding the state's proposed hike in electricity tariffs, which we believe would place an undue financial burden on the people. On behalf of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), we earnestly request you to reject the proposals submitted by the state government through electricity corporations seeking approval for such an increase.

It is well-known that the Congress party came to power promising free electricity to various sections of society. However, contrary to these promises, the current administration is now preparing to impose a significant burden of ₹18,500 crore on the people under various proposals.

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The state government has submitted around nine proposals to the Electricity Regulatory Commission, which include charges like ₹963 crore under the true-up charges and ₹16,364 crore under the Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR), in addition to seeking approval for an immediate hike of ₹1,200 crore for this fiscal year.

We humbly request you to dismiss these petitions. It has come to our attention that the DISCOMS are proposing to increase the fixed charge per kilowatt from the current ₹10 to ₹50 for households consuming more than 300 units of electricity per month. This would place an excessive financial burden on those consuming over 300 units. Furthermore, proposals to categorize all industries under a single category and to impose equal charges for 33 kV and 132 kV connections, similar to 11 kV connections, would severely impact the industrial sector.

If these proposals are approved, it would have a detrimental effect not only on the people of Telangana but also on the state's overall progress. The proposed electricity tariff hikes are likely to act as a significant roadblock to the state's development. Already, due to the government's misguided policies, the industrial sector has slowed down, and many sectors are grappling with crises.

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Both internationally and nationally, the industrial sector is facing a downturn, and the situation is exacerbated by the government's ill-conceived programs and decisions.

In such a scenario, an electricity tariff hike is neither reasonable nor justifiable. Approving this increase would further distress the industrial sector in Telangana, which is already facing significant challenges. Experts in the electricity sector, as well as representatives of farmers' associations and residential consumers, have expressed strong objections to the proposed hike. The rural and poor communities, already disillusioned with the government's decisions, would also suffer greatly if the hike is implemented. We urge you to take into consideration the numerous objections raised and to instruct the state government to refrain from proceeding with the tariff hikes.

During the ten-year tenure of the BRS government, when similar proposals for tariff hikes were brought forward by electricity corporations, the then Chief Minister, Shri K. Chandrashekar Rao, did not approve them, as he was committed to protecting the poor from any financial burden. He rejected the proposed true-up charges by stating that the government

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would bear the costs, ensuring that the people were not affected. Sadly, the current administration seems to lack such concern for the public.

It is unfortunate that the current government is treating electricity merely as a commercial commodity. Our party believes that electricity should be regarded as a fundamental right, essential to the people's lives, rather than a mere business commodity. That is why we provided 24-hour free quality electricity to farmers and uninterrupted electricity to the industrial sector for ten years. We viewed electricity not as a business product but as a driving force for change across all sectors of society. This approach led to remarkable progress in both the agricultural and industrial sectors over the past decade, creating numerous employment opportunities and increasing government revenues.

However, the current government seems to lack such foresight and is solely focused on treating electricity as a commodity, attempting to raise tariffs recklessly without considering the adverse effects. This tariff hike will severely impact small, medium, and large industries, as well as the overall progress of the state.

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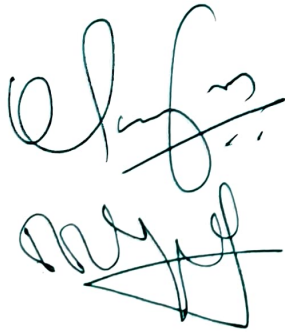
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We respectfully request that you exercise your authority to prevent the government from arbitrarily raising tariffs, as electricity tariffs are intrinsically tied to the state's development. We urge you to consider the perspective of the public, industries, and MSMEs, and we hope that you will take a positive decision to prevent the electricity tariff hike.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.



with regards,



(K. Taraka Rama Rao)

G. Reddy

(G. Jagadish Reddy)



(K. Venkatesh, M.L.A.)

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(P. Koushik Reddy)

