APPENDIX VI

17.11.2000

To,
Respected Shri Keshubhai Patel

Dear Sir,

Sub.: Representation by Bharatiya Kisan Sangh regarding Electricity Tariff

With reference to the subject mentioned above, we would like to state that the tariff decision recently declared by the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission, has created extensive feelings of anger and anxiety among the farmers of Gujarat. It is therefore suggested that the points enumerated below should be clarified while considering the issues, for final decision by the Govt.

(1) There was no 'Fixed Charge' in earlier, its should not be introduced.

(2) Electricity cess is proposed at 5%, which is an introduction. The burden is part of income booking, for the State Government. Therefore State Government may consider for its waiver. There after the matter for net rates on H.P. or units, could be taken for discussion.

(3) The shameless and boundless harassment to the farmers, resulted in agitations, for abolishing the meter system. Such events should be avoided in future.

(4) The following precautions regarding consumer services should be taken by GEB. The farmer consumers should not be made responsible for it and should not be punished for (1) unsealed meter (2) Broken Meter (3) Burnt out Meter (4) Checking of Meter (5) Meter repairing and Meter replacement etc. All the above functions are the primary responsibilities of GEB Board. The farmers must be compensated for the defective services. The time limit must be fixed for restoration of the above services. A letter of consumer charter should be published like a letter for civil rights, The copies of which should be provided to the farmers.
The farmers need not bear the Meter Rent.

The total expenses for providing and fixing the meters will be born by G.E.B.

T.C. burnout, shiftings, demand for increase or decrease of power supply and transferring the connection in the name of the successor of a deceased consumer, at the time for disposal of matters like P.D.C. or T.D.C. the recognition as old consumer should be maintained and the treatments as new consumers should be stopped.

A written assurance for providing of years long pending connections, (held up due to implementation of tariff) should be given to Individual consumer as well as to the Bharatiya Kishan Sangh (as, an organization) the time schedule for completing the tasks should be programmed accordingly.

Whatever may be the final decision on the tariff award, the periodicity for its consistency should be of 5 years minimum. During the period, no burden of any sort should be passed on to the farmers.

However, for any reason, the GEB needs to put up the case for tariff, before the commission, it is responsibility of state govt. to prevent GEB from doing so.

During the period if it becomes necessary, a tripartiate (Govt. GEB, BKS) arrangement for discussion should be chalk out, the decision arrived at, should be followed and implemented by GEB.

The GEB should bear the expenses on the publicity materials, required to be released, for creating the atmosphere that, the meter system, inducted will be beneficial to both, consumers as well as the GEB.

The Billing should be done at the prevailing rates in the circumstances of 'Late Fixing' of the meters.

For information of General public, a list of defaulters in payment for Rs. 1 Lakh and above should be published every month.
(15) The recovery system for such defaulters should be framed out separately.

(16) Farmer should be provided with calculation sheet for the billing. The psychology to exploit the farmer by preparing the bills, discritionally, for the cases like default, misappropriation and theft of (power) Electricity should be checked.

(17) Actions and proceedings for such cases should only be started after completing spot panchana in presence of farmer's trusted expert. The administrative orders to that effect should be issued. The schedule for tariff should be used as per Agriculture rate. Commercial or Industrial Tarriff rates should not be levied in such cases.

(18) P.D.C. or T.D.C. for such Bills should not be carried out hurriedly and with a bias mind. The implementation should be made only after final verdict form the Applet Court.

(19) Now a days, due to the continuous misbehavior and indifference by the employee and officers from GEB towards the farmers, distrust and agony had reached to the peak, which is not, a healthy atmosphere. It is for GEB to change their attitude towards the farmers. For ending the scarcity of Trust, GEB should come forward with appropriate circular, clearly favouring the formers.

(20) The Leaders form Farmers Community should be invited and included for the discussion on the improvement programme of GEB's administration.

(21) A legislative Procedure should be taken up for posting the approved representative from Bharatiya Kisan Sangh on the Board for GEB as a permanent Director. This is now in vogue, in case of chairman of chamber of commerce and Industry. The required modifications should be inducted.

(22) In the cases of areas, the farmers should be given an opportunity, to be heard, before conducting any ultimate action like disconnection of power supply for one year.
(23) The Industries and Domestic users get power supply for 24 Hours, under the circumstances the farmers should be assured for supply of continuous uninterrupted and with full voltage electricity for 16 Hours a day.

(24) The GEB will be responsible for replacement of burnt out T.C., within 48 hours. In case the GEB fails to replace it, the efforts made by the farmers, for protecting their crop by hiring a T.C. should not be treated to penalise them. The assurance should be obtained from GEB for that.

(25) The scheduled programme for power supply should be published through new papers, so that the farmers may prepare their irrigation schedules. (programme) accordingly.

(26) The system of P.D.C. and R.C. should be kept on.

(27) To use a bulb of 40 watts at the well is allowed. The facility should be continued.

(28) It is argued by GEB that Agriculture sector is utilizing about 42% of the Electricity, but it is solicited here that Agriculture sector should be provided with at least 35 % of the total power consumption in the state. Moreover to achieve the additional targets and goals for Agri. Production, Central as well as state govt. should come forward to help the farmers as per these guidelines.

Rameshbhai Chaudhary
Pradesh General Secretary

C.C. to Kaushikbhai Patel
Energy-Gnr
Nalinbhai Bhatt
Chairman GEB
Baroda