

Inflated electricity bills

Why in news?

\n\n

A fact-finding committee reported that farmers had received inflated power bills in 2014-15.

\n\n

What is the Status of Indian farmers?

\n\n

\n

- Majority of Indian farmers are doing marginal and subsistence agriculture.

\n

- The farmers meet high amount of operational costs.

\n

- Operational costs include fertilizers, seeds, wages, expenses for tilling, ploughing, irrigation etc.

\n

- Electricity is one of the important operational costs for the farmers.

\n

- But in few instances the farmers face inflated electricity bill which creates distress among them.

\n

\n\n

What is the report about?

\n\n

\n

- In 2015, the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) had appointed a three-member committee.

\n

- It looked into allegations that farmers had received inflated electricity bills in 2014-15.

\n

- Apart from officials, energy activists are also a part of the committee.
\n
- The committee commissioned a field study by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B),
\n
- Based on which it was to submit a report and suggest methods to improve the functioning of MSEDCL by December 2015.
\n

\n\n

What are issues with the report?

\n\n

- \n
- Recently the report was submitted to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB),
\n
- The report didn't had the signature of the three-member committee's chairperson.
\n
- The director of MSEB, claimed to have no knowledge of the submission of the report.
\n
- There was difference of opinion arose when the committee discuss the findings before presenting it to the MSEB.
\n

\n\n

How such issues can be addressed?

\n\n

- \n
- Electricity bills need to be revised by the committee.
\n
- The reports need to collected on losses and the board need to refund the excess amount to the farmers.
\n
- Many of the states had given waiver of electricity bill to the agrarian community, such models can also be followed.
\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: Indian Express

\n

