

PRESS RELEASE

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Withdraw the draconian-antip people Power Tariff Hike: Surjewala

BJP has betrayed people of Haryana by 2nd Power Hike in 6 Months

People of Haryana feel cheated- CM's hollow promise of 'No Power Hike for 3 Years' is another BJP Jumla !

Senior Congress leader and All India Congress Committee media in-charge Mr. Randeep Singh Surjewala has demanded the immediate withdrawal of electricity tariff hike and described it as **'anti-people Jajiya Tax'**

In a press statement issued here today, Mr. Surjewala said that the electricity hike of Rs 50p per unit would burn holes in pockets of ordinary Haryanavi, who is already facing the heat of inflation.

Reminding the Chief Minister, Mr. Manohar Lal Khattar of his solemn promise made 6 months ago, "that there would be no increase in electricity rates for three years", Mr. Surjewala said that CM's empty promises have become one more "BJP Jumla" to dupe the people of the state. He said that only three months earlier, the BJP Government had increased the new domestic electricity connection charges by Rs 725 under five heads of security deposits, service connection charges and application processing fees in a surreptitious manner, through back door. Apart from this, the security amount for new connection was increased by up to 50%. **Now for the second time in three months, cumbersome financial burden upto 50 paise per unit has been imposed on all the consumers. 2.5 Crore people of Haryana feel deceived and cheated as the Chief Minister Mr Khattar's word have ceased to have any meaning.**

Mr Surjewala said that on one hand, electricity consumers were being harassed for excessively high electricity rates and on the other hand, state is reeling under an accute power crisis. In garb of electricity flying squads, ordinary people are being targeted and treated like dreaded criminals by imposing lakhs of rupees of fine. On top of it, multiple penalties are being imposed. Despite all this, rampant power cuts have hit everyday life, with villages and cities suffering in darkness with power cuts ranging upto 10-12 hours every day in the summer heat. Mismanagement of Power Sector is galore as the power plants set up by the previous Congress government have been intentionally shutdown, as BJP Government purchases electricity from outside the state.

Targeting the Khattar government of the state, Mr. Surjewala said that instead of giving relief to the people, the government is burdening the people with huge burden of taxes. After forming government in state, the BJP has increased VAT on petrol and diesel. The VAT on petrol has been increased from 21% to 26.25%, whereas the VAT on diesel has been increased from 9.24% to 17.22% by the Khattar government. The anti-people face of the government stands completely exposed and the public is eager to change the Khattar government, he added.