

## Unfair Money Collection

The rate increase for water and electricity is the subject of the hour. The Council of Ministers has issued a schedule for the increase, but no one knows the mechanism by which it will be implemented, leaving it to rumors and misinterpretations. Furthermore, the National Assembly excludes private housing from the increase, but leaves everything else. I wonder, is the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) capable of collecting this money? Will this increase achieve the goals of the State budget?

The answer is no. Not only are they unable to collect the State's accumulated rights from the citizens, there are also no accurate meter readings, people are troubled by accumulated bills, and some weak souls are manipulated. Here I set an example, and I hope no one will get upset.

More than ten years ago, I met a real estate investor who was complaining to a member of the municipal council about a tower he built with funds from the bank. When he asked MEW to connect the building to the grid, the ministry said it wasn't possible because they needed new relay stations in the area and they had already made a request to the Municipal Council for the locations. The council member told him that this process would be a long journey, but he knew someone who could help. After some time passed, I saw him in a diwaniya and asked him about his old project. He told me that an engineer approached him and asked what he could do to help. Our friend told him, "Everything is going according to plan, but MEW said that there are no electrical cables in the area. I don't think there's anything you'll be able to do for me." "We can do anything you need," the engineer replied, "but of course it has a price." The investor clearly stated that he needed the ministry's official approval to