

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1196
ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023**

MENACE OF ILLEGAL ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS

1196. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:

SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:

SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBAJIRAO MANE:

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

**Will the Minister of POWER
be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the persistent menace of illegal electricity connections and theft of power across the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether theft of power has an adverse effect on the development of power sector and if so, the details thereof along with the response of the Government thereto;**
- (c) the details of the Amount of Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses incurred due to illegal connections and other cases of theft of power during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;**
- (d) the details of the punitive action proposed against guilty persons;**
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop theft of electricity in the country; and**
- (f) whether the Government in consultation with the States propose to prepare any plan to check theft of power in the country and if so, the details thereof?**

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b) : Illegal electricity connections and theft of power affects the financial health of the distribution companies with consequential effects like poor quality of power. The Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) loss is one of the key indicators of DISCOMs performance, which includes impact of power theft also. It is the prime responsibility of respective Distribution Utilities to take adequate measures to stop power theft. However, Govt. of India supplements the efforts of States/ distribution utilities by providing funding for the purpose under various schemes launched from time to time. To facilitate the reduction of AT&C losses and to improve power distribution system, the Government has launched the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). This Scheme aims to reduce the AT&C losses, on pan-India basis, in the range of 12-15% by 2024-25.

(c) : Illegal connection and theft of electricity is one of the several reasons for AT&C losses of the power distribution utilities. As per the 'Report on Performance of Power Utilities' published by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) total AT&C losses in the country attributable to various factors during the FY 2018-19 to FY 2020-22 are given below:

| National Level Figures | FY 2018-19 | FY 2019-20 | FY 2020-21 | FY 2021-22 (Provisional) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| AT&C Losses (%) | 21.64 | 20.73 | 22.32 | 16.68 |

The State-wise and Utility-wise details of AT&C Losses are given at Annexure.

(d) to (f) : Following steps have been taken by the Government of India to control the theft of power:

- i. There are specific provisions in the Electricity Act 2003 (Section 126 and Sections 135 to 140) relating to theft and unauthorized use of electricity, including stringent penal provisions and speedy trial for such offences by Special Courts (Part XV of the Electricity Act 2003);**
- ii. Under RDSS, there is a provision for providing financial assistance to the eligible DISCOMs for installation of pre-paid smart meters for 25 crore consumers and system metering with communication features by March 2025. Under the scheme, advanced ICT like Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI/ML) would be leveraged to analyse data generated through smart meters to detect the theft cases and to prepare actionable MIS from system generated energy accounting reports so as to enable the DISCOMs to take informed decisions on power theft along with loss reduction.**
- iii. Also under the scheme, financial assistance is being provided to the eligible Discoms for upgradation of distribution infrastructure including measures for reduction of losses and theft by use of ABC cable/UG cable/HVDS etc. This will facilitate to reduce the losses of distribution utilities including theft of electricity.**
- iv. As per Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020, the distribution licensee shall arrange to display on its website feeder wise outage data, efforts made for minimizing outages, prevention of theft or unauthorized use of electricity or tampering, distress or damage to electrical plant, electric lines or meter and results obtained during the year.**
- v. Tariff Policy 2016 envisages that in order to reduce theft of power, the distribution companies should have enabling feature like distribution SCADA with distribution management system and energy audit functions.**

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1196 ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 09.02.2023

State-wise and utility-wise details of AT&C Losses

| | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 23.43 | 23.34 | 51.94 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 25.67 | 10.77 | 27.25 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 52.53 | 40.49 | 44.87 |
| Assam | 20.19 | 23.39 | 18.73 |
| Bihar | 33.30 | 39.95 | 35.33 |
| Chandigarh | 13.50 | 15.86 | 11.89 |
| Chhattisgarh | 24.96 | 18.46 | 20.40 |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 5.45 | 3.56 | 5.17 |
| Daman & Diu | 6.19 | 4.07 | 4.48 |
| Goa | 17.61 | 11.41 | 12.94 |
| Gujarat | 14.05 | 11.79 | 11.91 |
| Haryana | 18.08 | 18.26 | 17.05 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 12.46 | 13.33 | 14.02 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 49.94 | 60.46 | 59.28 |
| Jharkhand | 28.33 | 37.13 | 41.36 |
| Karnataka | 19.82 | 17.58 | 15.36 |
| Kerala | 9.10 | 13.12 | 7.76 |
| Lakshadweep | 26.82 | 13.69 | 11.63 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 36.63 | 30.38 | 41.47 |
| Maharashtra | 15.80 | 19.24 | 26.55 |
| Manipur | 25.26 | 23.30 | 20.33 |
| Meghalaya | 35.22 | 31.67 | 30.88 |
| Mizoram | 16.20 | 20.66 | 36.53 |
| Nagaland | 65.73 | 64.79 | 60.39 |
| Odisha | 31.55 | 28.94 | 29.32 |
| Puducherry | 19.77 | 18.45 | 19.92 |
| Punjab | 11.28 | 14.35 | 18.03 |
| Rajasthan | 28.25 | 29.86 | 26.23 |
| Sikkim | 41.83 | 28.77 | 29.37 |
| Tamil Nadu | 17.86 | 15.00 | 13.81 |
| Telangana | 18.41 | 21.92 | 13.33 |
| Tripura | 38.03 | 35.71 | 37.36 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 33.19 | 30.05 | 27.45 |
| Uttarakhand | 17.45 | 20.35 | 15.39 |
| West Bengal | 23.00 | 20.40 | 21.35 |
| State Sector | 22.44 | 21.50 | 23.01 |
| Delhi | 9.12 | 8.26 | 8.87 |
| BRPL | 9.04 | 8.33 | 9.70 |
| BYPL | 10.76 | 8.54 | 9.41 |
| TPDDL | 7.99 | 7.96 | 7.39 |
| Gujarat | 5.20 | 4.59 | 6.46 |
| Torrent Power Ahmadabad | 5.81 | 5.07 | 6.76 |
| Torrent Power Surat | 3.71 | 3.43 | 5.66 |
| Maharashtra | 8.11 | 9.06 | 8.85 |
| AEML | 8.11 | 9.06 | 8.85 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 9.36 | 9.73 | 9.77 |
| NPCL | 9.36 | 9.73 | 9.77 |
| West Bengal | 9.23 | 9.25 | 13.17 |
| CESC | 9.73 | 9.52 | 14.04 |
| IPCL | 2.68 | 5.87 | 3.52 |
| Private Sector | 8.29 | 7.95 | 9.27 |
| Grand Total | 21.64 | 20.73 | 22.32 |
