GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3066
ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

STRENGTH OF HIGH TENSION ELECTRIC POWER POLES/WIRES

3066. SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:

Will the Minister of POWER
be pleased to state the details of steps taken as on date, by the Union Government, in coordination with the State Government of Gujarat, for regular checking of strength of high tension electric power poles/wires as there have been some incidents of collapse of high tension electric power poles/wires in other States as on date?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

As per Electricity Act 2003, distribution of electricity is a licensed activity and it is the duty of the respective distribution licensee to develop and maintain an efficient, safe and economical distribution system in its area of supply. Hence, it is the responsibility of the distribution utilities to take measures required for operation and maintenance of distribution system including checking the strength of poles/ wires of HT/ LT lines to maintain quality and reliable power supply in its area of operation. Further, high tension and extra high tension lines and conductors are checked during routine patrolling, fault tripping and breakdown by utility staff, wherein, the parts of towers/ poles like cross arms, insulators, hard-wares & conductors, jumpers are checked at regular interval for its healthiness. Also, foundations, stub, members of towers/ H-frame structures are assessed and rectification are done under normal course, while stub strengthening, deterioration of structures are replaced under R&M plan on yearly basis.

CEA (Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply) Regulations, 2023, specify safety measures for construction, operation and maintenance of power stations, sub-stations, transmission and distribution lines. It lays down the

.....2.

safety measures required for electrical installations, overhead lines and others. These regulations are applicable to electrical installations, which encompass electrical plants, electric lines, and individuals or entities involved in activities such as electricity generation, transmission, distribution, supply or consumption.

Further, CEA (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, 2022, have provisions for strengthening of poles/ wires in disaster prone areas/ coastal areas:

i. **In coastal areas, higher strength poles like rail poles or spun poles are to be used or underground cables are to be used.**

ii. **Suitable insulating paint shall preferably be provided on bare conductors in coastal areas to prevent corrosion.**

CEA also prepared "Report of Task Force on Cyclone Resilient Robust Electricity Transmission and Distribution (T&D) Infrastructure in Coastal Area" in May, 2021, which was circulated to all the States by Ministry of Power in June, 2021, to take the measures suggested in the Report for dealing with and minimizing the impact of cyclones.

****