

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1629
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2000
NEW SCHEME FOR POWER THEFT
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI;SANJAY PASWAN

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new scheme to prevent power theft to avoid loss of crores of rupees each year to the State Electricity Boards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said scheme is similar to that of in vogue in South Africa and European countries; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (d): No, Sir. Theft of power has already been recognised as a cognizable offence under the Section 39 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 with deterrent punishment up to 3 years imprisonment, or fine of not less than Rs.1000 or both. However, the Government is considering to introduce a new scheme under which funds will be provided to power utilities to undertake investment in sub-transmission and distribution projects including the provision of meters at all levels with the object of reducing T&D losses and improving the operational efficiency of State Power Utilities. However, release of funds would be contingent on the State Government accepting conditionalities with regard to reform and restructuring.