

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:245
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2001
POWER THEFT
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of power theft in the country;
- (b) whether it is on the increase; and
- (c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the menace?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH P. PRABHU)

(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) STARRED QUESTION NO. 245 TO BE ANSWERED IN TI LOK SABHA ON 06.12.2001 REGARDING POWER THEFT.

(a) to (c) : The losses being incurred by the various State Governments on account of power theft are not being assessed separately. The percentage Transmission & Distribution losses including losses due to technical reasons and unaccounted losses being assessed by the concerned State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments from the year 1992-93 to 1998-99 are annexed.

Power distribution falls within the purview of the State Governments and the activities pertaining to prevention of theft of electricity and removing illegal connection have to be taken up by the power utilities operating under their jurisdiction. Theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, and the utilities have to effectively implement the provisions of the law to curb theft of electricity.

Some of the steps being taken by utilities to prevent the theft of energy are as under :

- a. Mass checking drive is carried out periodically by vigilance squads as well as field staff. Inspections are being carried out by the District-wise units of engineers and prosecutions of erring consumers are launched by Police Officers manning the anti-Power theft Squads.
- b. Installations are being made pilfer proof.
- c. A scheme for incentive to informants is in vogue. A scheme to recognize the performance of individuals to curb theft of energy by providing incentive to deserving officers/employees has been introduced.
- d. Load inspection study for major load centers is being conducted.
- e. Penalty of imprisonment is also being imposed on the culprits.
- f. With the help of computerization of billing process, the abnormal consumption of consumers is being detected. If consumption is less than 15% of the average energy consumption, cases are immediately inspected for detecting tampering of meter/theft of energy

In the Chief Ministers`/Power Ministers` Conference held on 3.3.2001, it was resolved that State governments/State Power Utilities would take the following steps to reduce technical and commercial losses :

- (i) Energy audit at all 11 KV feeders will be made effective within the next 6 months and accountability fixed at the local level.
- (ii) An effective Management Information System (MIS) for this purpose will be made operational.
- (iii) On the basis of the above, an effective program will be launched for identifying and eliminating power thefts in the next 2 years.
- (iv) Full metering of all consumers will be completed by December 2001. Special efforts would be made to complete the programme.

(v) The quality of power supplied especially in rural areas will be improved through the APDP;

(vi) Commercial viability has to be achieved in distribution in 2-3 years through any or all of the following

- Creating Profit centres with full accountability
- Handing over of local distribution to Panchayats/Local Bodies/ Franchisees/Users Associations, wherever necessary.
- Privatization of distribution
- Or any other means

(vii) Efforts by States, at inviting private investment in the power sector need to be focused towards the distribution sector.

(viii) Current operations in distribution would need to reach break even in two years and achieve positive returns thereafter.

Funds are being provided to the power utilities under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) for improving distribution system and reduction of T&D losses. An amount of Rs.1000 crores for R&M of thermal and hydro power stations and improvement of distribution systems was provided in the year 2000-2001. An amount of Rs.1500 crores is to be allocated to the utilities during the year 2001-2002 under APDP. 60 distribution circles in various States have been taken up in the first instance for improvement of sub-transmission and distribution system under APDP. These identified circles are being developed as 'centres of excellence' so as to serve as models for remaining distribution circles in the country for improvement in a phased manner.

Government is also considering a proposal for making available substantial additional resources so as to ensure coverage of all the distribution circles in the country for improvement of sub-transmission and distribution system. The proposal would include time bound reduction of T&D losses, operationalisation of an effective Management Information System, fixing of accountability at various levels through Energy Audit and organizational restructuring.

ANNEXE REFERRED TO IN PART (a) TO (c) OF THE STATEMENT LAID IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 245 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 06.12.2001 REGARDING POWER THEFT.

Percentage Transformation, Transmission & Distribution losses (including commercial losses such as pilferage etc.) in SEBs/EDs

REGION/SEB/ED 1992-93 1993-94 1994-95 1995-96 1996-97 1997-98 1998-99+

Northern Region:

Haryana	26.78	25.00	30.80	32.39	32.77	34.04	33.81
Himachal Pradesh	19.51	18.31	18.21	16.09	18.02	20.13	20.13
Jammu & Kashmir	48.28	45.69	48.74	47.52	48.27	49.95	47.07
Punjab	19.24	19.37	16.70	18.49	19.10	18.94	16.83
Rajasthan	22.74	25.00	24.78	29.27	26.28	26.41	29.43
Uttar Pradesh	24.43	24.08	21.69	21.84	24.84	26.18	26.86
Chandigarh	26.21	27.27	28.44	33.72	21.88	22.38	NA
DVB (Delhi)	23.56	31.79	34.56	48.57	49.08	47.91	40.0

Western Region:

Gujarat	22.03	20.34	20.02	20.08	17.14	21.57	19.69
Madhya Pradesh	21.35	20.26	19.61	17.84	19.24	19.58	20.92
Maharashtra	17.83	16.22	16.33	16.95	16.55	18.75	18.14
D&N Haveli	17.98	12.64	11.35	09.31	08.80	12.90	NA
Goa	21.85	24.50	26.87	26.06	23.50	31.02	NA
Daman & Diu	15.67	22.34	16.30	12.80	08.15	14.69	NA

Southern Region:

Andhra Pradesh	19.88	19.91	17.95	19.34	33.19	32.14	31.8
Karnataka	19.55	19.55	19.41	19.06	18.73	19.31	30.08
Kerala	21.95	20.00	20.05	21.12	20.59	18.73	17.75
Tamil Nadu	17.50	17.18	17.11	16.19	17.65	17.29	16.9
Lakshadweep	18.72	16.99	17.84	17.23	15.11	15.70	NA

Pondicherry 15.31 15.80 15.00 16.54 17.38 13.56 NA

Eastern Region:

Bihar 22.00 20.35 19.76 15.91 25.31 16.26 23.0
Orissa (GRIDCO) 25.25 22.43 23.03 24.17 50.15 50.10 48.44
Sikkim 22.55 22.60 21.22 16.47 29.24 22.87
West Bengal 24.87 20.82 21.51 19.26 18.01 19.67 25.5
A&N Island 23.62 23.71 22.38 19.25 19.15 20.59 NA

North Eastern Region:

Assam 21.41 22.44 24.18 26.91 25.97 27.32 23.0
Manipur 22.35 23.92 25.30 24.85 22.95 21.09 NA
Meghalaya 11.79 18.03 18.47 12.55 19.75 12.28 20.17
Nagaland 27.26 33.45 36.12 35.17 26.81 29.79 NA
Tripura 30.64 30.53 31.96 30.86 30.11 31.11 NA
Arunachal Pradesh 32.32 42.04 45.30 37.12 32.62 34.10 NA
Mizoram 29.04 31.89 29.76 25.18 34.35 46.84 NA
All India (Utilities) 21.80 21.41 21.13 22.27 24.53 24.79 25.62

+ As reported by SEBs/ Electricity Deptt. and subject to change after reconciliation of inter-state sale of energy and are provisional.