

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:432
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering involvement of private sector in the field of electrification of rural areas in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have taken note of private distribution companies reluctant to continue power supply to rural areas;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (d) : Electrification of villages is the responsibility of State Governments. In Chief Ministers' conference on the 3rd of March, 2001 it was resolved to complete the village electrification by 2007. The Electricity Act, 2003 has enabling provision for the participation of private sector, Panchayats and local bodies in the supply of electricity in rural areas.