

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2527

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2009

POWER THEFT

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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the power theft in the country is resulting in heavy revenue losses to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details of losses suffered by the State Governments during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether some of the State Governments including Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttarakhand have constituted `women groups` to check power theft at village level;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to constitute such groups in the country for the purpose;and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) & (b): Power theft causes loss to State Government exchequer as State Government is responsible for the distribution sector and losses are primarily in the distribution segment. Theft of electricity is one of the major contributing factors impacting the financial health of power utilities. This also contributes to poor quality of power supply, frequent load shedding and unscheduled outages. The financial health of power utilities is also one of the criteria for assessing the viability of new investments. Thus, Theft of electricity is also one of the reasons for high AT&C losses in the country.

As per the 6th Report on the `Performance of the State Power Utilities for the year 2005-06 to 2007-08` published by Power Finance Corporation, the State wise details of commercial losses for 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 are placed at Annex. The details of commercial losses for 2008-09 & the current year are not available.

(c): It is reported that Uttarakhand has appointed Women Self Help Groups as franchises in distribution sector. No specific information about constitution of `Women Groups` to check power theft in the country is available in Ministry of Power.

(d) & (e): No such proposal is under consideration in Government of India at present.