

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:179
ANSWERED ON:03.07.2009
POWER THEFT
Sharma Dr. Arvind Kumar

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidents of power theft in the rural and industrial areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the power theft in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) : Yes, Madam, the Government is aware of the power theft in the country. All India AT&C losses stand at 30.56% during 2007-08. State wise details are placed at Annex.

The Electricity Act, 2003 provides a legal framework for making theft of electricity a cognizable offence. Under Section 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003, whoever dishonestly taps lines or cables or service wires, tampers, damages or destroys meters etc. shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to three years or with fine or with both. Following initiative/measures are being taken to minimize theft of electricity:

Meter`s installation as per CEA regulations;

Emphasis on 100% Consumer metering, feeder metering and Distribution transformer metering;

Establishment of consumer grievance forum and appointment of ombudsman for protecting consumer`s interest;

Establishment of special courts and police stations, etc.;

Emphasis on Energy Audit; and

Implementation of HVDS.

The Government of India has accorded sanction to implement Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (R- APDRP) during the XI Plan with revised terms and conditions as a Central Sector Scheme. The focus of the programme shall be on actual, demonstrable performance in terms of sustained loss reduction.

It is proposed to cover urban areas – towns and cities with population of more than 30,000 (10,000 in case of special category states). In addition, in certain high-load density rural areas with significant loads, works of separation of agricultural feeders from domestic and industrial ones, and of High Voltage Distribution System (11kV) will also be taken up. Further, towns/ areas for which projects have been sanctioned in X Plan R-APDRP shall be considered for the XI Plan only after either completion or short closure of the earlier sanctioned projects.

Projects under the scheme shall be taken up in Two Parts. Part-A shall include the projects for establishment of baseline data and IT applications for energy accounting/auditing & IT based consumer service centres and Part- B shall include regular distribution strengthening projects.