

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
POWER  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5745

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2010

PRIVATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES

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**Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any complaint has come to the notice of the Government against a private firm in the power sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has set up any central agency to monitor the workings of private companies engaged in the distribution of electricity in the country under the Electricity Act, 2003;
- (d) if so, the details of the monitoring work done during each of the last two years and the current year; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government to the outcome of the monitoring work?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) : No specific complaint has been received in the Ministry of Power against any private distribution firm in the power sector.

Electricity is a concurrent subject.No central agency has been set up to monitor the working of private companies engaged in the distribution of electricity in the country under the Electricity Act, 2003. Distribution comes within the purview of the States/UTs. Accordingly, the Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) are regulated by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs)/Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) as per the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003. The Act provides that every distribution licensee shall establish a forum for redressal of grievances of the consumers in accordance with the guideline as may be specified by the SERC. The Act further provides that the SERC shall appoint an Ombudsman who shall settle the grievance of a consumer who is aggrieved by non-redressal of his grievances by the forum. The DISCOMs are expected to comply with the directions of concerned SERCs.

Section 173 of the Act also has saved Consumer Protection Act, 1986 so as to protect the interest of the consumers.