

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5224
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010
POWER THEFT
Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of power theft cases that come into the Government's cognition during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the total revenue loss to the Government due to power theft during the said period;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check power theft?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Distribution of electricity falls under the purview of State Governments and the information regarding the number of power theft cases are not maintained at Govt. of India.

(d) : Electricity Distribution is a subject of States. However, the Electricity Act, 2003 legislated by Union of India provides number of measures to check theft of Electricity which are given below:

As per Section 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003 theft of electricity is a cognizable offence. Under this Section, 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.

Section 135 & Section 151 of the Electricity Act, 2003 have been amended to make provision relating to theft of electricity more stringent. The definition of theft has been expanded under Section 135 to cover use of tampered meters and use of electricity for unauthorized purpose by insertion of provision (d) and (e) under Section 135 (1) of Electricity Act, 2003. Section 151 has been amended by incorporating provisions of cognizance of offence by a court upon a report of police officer filed under Section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and also inserting new section 151- A and 151-B mentioning power of police to investigate an offence and making certain offences punishable under the Act as cognizable and non-bailable.

So far 24 States have set up special courts under section 153 of the Electricity Act, 2003.