

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1279
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012
FAULTY ELECTRICITY METERS
Premdas Shri ;Singh Rajkumari Ratna

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the private power distribution companies in the country, particularly in National Capital Territory of Delhi have installed faulty meters and are charging very high rent from consumers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is provisions in the Electricity Act, 2003 to penalise companies resorting to such practices;
- (d) whether a number of complaints have been received by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) & (b) : Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) had carried out accuracy testing of energy meters only at the consumer end for Distribution Companies under the aegis of Public Grievances (PG) Cell, Department of Power, Government of NCT of Delhi between May, 2007 and October, 2010.

Out of 2,061 meters tested so far, 101 meters were found to record more than 2.5% against the required accuracy of less than or equal to 2.5% as specified in Standards IS:15707. Balance 1,960 Energy Meters were within the specified accuracy as per the above standard. Based on the above Statistics, it is observed that 4.9% of the meters tested were found defective.

(c) : Yes, Madam. The Electricity Act, 2003 has provisions under Section 142 to deal with the contraventions of the said Act.

(d) & (e) : In terms of Electricity Act, 2003, the matter of the financial loss incurred by the consumers due to faulty meters lies within the purview of the concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commission. Accordingly, the decision on financial loss incurred by consumers due to some defective meters was required to be decided statutorily by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC).

As per Regulation 38 of the Delhi Electricity Supply Code and Proforma Standard Regulations, 2007, issued by DERC, a procedure has been laid down for adjustment/refund to the consumer or recovery from the consumer where meter is found to be fast or slow beyond the specified limits of accuracy on testing. In case faulty meters are detected then the due amount is credited to consumers as per Regulations.