

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1171
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012
OPEN ACCESS UNDER ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Open Access policy envisaged under Electricity Act, 2003 is being followed in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the details of facilities provided through the open access; and
- (c) the way open access policy is helping to create an atmosphere of competition among power distribution policies in the country?

Answer

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

(a): The Electricity Act, 2003 defines 'Open access' as the non-discriminatory provision for the use of transmission lines or distribution system or associated facilities with such lines or system by any licensee or consumer or a person engaged in generation in accordance with the regulations specified by the Appropriate Commission.'

The Open Access Policy envisaged under the Electricity Act, 2003 has been implemented by the Central Commission by specifying the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Open Access in Inter-State Transmission) Regulations, 2008 and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long-term Access and Middle Term Open Access) Regulations, 2009.

(b): Under the 2009 Regulations, a generating station of installed capacity 250 MW and above including captive generating plant of exportable capacity of 250 MW and above or bulk consumer intending to avail supply of a minimum load of 100 MW, any consumer, electricity trader or distribution licensee are eligible to apply for long term access with the Inter-State Transmission System, which is for a period of 12 to 25 years and medium term access which is permissible for a period exceeding 3 months, but not exceeding 3 years. Once the connectivity and the long term access or medium term open access is granted by the Central Transmission Utility, these applicants become eligible to use Inter-State Transmission System.

Presently, Open Access in inter-state transmission is fully operational. During Financial Year 2010-11, the total number of transactions under Open Access at inter-state level was 19883 as against 18128 in 2009-10. Further, CTU is reported to have received 225 applications from private developers for Long Term Open Access amounting to 1,62,898 MW.

At state level, as per the information available with the Forum of Regulators (FOR) Secretariat, 24 State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERC) have issued regulations on Open Access in intra-state transmission and distribution. 25 SERCs have allowed Open Access to consumers with loads of 1MW and above. 22 SERCs have determined Transmission Charges, 18 SERCs have determined Wheeling Charges and 20 SERCs have determined Cross Subsidy Surcharge for Open Access.

The details of implementation of intra-state open access are at Annex.

(c): Open access has helped in facilitating access to power from any part of the country. The open access has also introduced competition in the market as the percentage of power transacted through the electricity traders and through power exchange has been steadily increasing.