

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4848
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2013
INFLATED ELECTRICITY BILLS .
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) plays any role/regulatory function over the frequent hike of power tariff by the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has received any complaints regarding installation of fast electricity meters and footing of inflated electricity bills by the private DISCOMS in the country particularly in Delhi and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Union Government proposes to incorporate stringent penalty clauses in the Electricity Act, 2003 against the installation of fast electricity meters by the private Power Distribution Companies which results in highly inflated electricity bills for domestic consumption; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) :Power tariff in States is decided by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) does not play any role/regulatory function in fixation of that tariff.

(c) :As per available records, no complaint regarding installation of fast electricity meters and footing of inflated electricity bills by the private DISCOMS has been received in this Ministry so far. However, Government of NCT Delhi has informed that in the past the complaints regarding fast electricity meters and inflated bills were received from different corners. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi undertook a Meter Testing Drive under the supervision of Sub-Divisional Magistrates

on four successive Saturdays starting from 17.09.2005. The exercise was carried out along with representatives of RWAs Consumer Coordination Council, Members from Department of Training and Technical Education, GNCTD and Discoms. The details of test drive conducted on 17.09.2005, 24.09.2005, 01.10.2005 and 08.10.2005 is tabulated below: -

Date	No. of Meters tested	Meters found within prescribed limits	Meters found defective/ faulty/ tampered	Meters found slow	Meters found fast
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19.09.05	508	501	1	4	2
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24.09.05	471	461	2	4	4
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01.10.05	512	507	0	4	1
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08.10.05	486	483	1	2	#
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Total:	1977	1952	4	14	7
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Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) had setup a Committee in August, 2003 to look into various complaints being received in the Commission regarding faulty meters. The Committee had submitted its report and it was observed that more than 91% of the meters recorded consumption level within the prescribed limits given in the Indian Electricity Rules. About 2% of the meters were found to be slow and 0.5% were faster than the prescribed limit.

The Public Grievance Cell, Department of Power, Govt. of NCT of Delhi started testing drive of electricity meters in Delhi through an independent third party Central Power Research Institute (CPRI), Bangalore since May 2007. The electricity meters were tested at the premises of the consumers on their suspicion of having a faulty meter. Out of 1652 electricity meters 81 were found beyond permissible limit of $\pm 2.5\%$.

The Distribution Companies adjust the over payment/underpayment on this count in the subsequent bills to the consumers as per provisions of DERC Supply Code and Performance Standards Regulations.

(d) & (e) :Section 55 of the Electricity Act, 2003 already provides for installation of correct meters in accordance with regulations to be made in this behalf by the Authority. In furtherance of above, Central Electricity Authority has notified the `Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006 and amended in 2010`.